

Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group - Lebanon



Strategy – September 2013

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I. Introduction

The Syria crisis has had a devastating impact on children in Syria and those fleeing to neighbouring countries including Lebanon. The child protection needs are multiple, significant and worsening the longer the crisis continues. To date, over one million children in Lebanon have been affected by the crisis. Children have been exposed to traumatic events resulting in high levels of distress, which can have long term impacts on children. The humanitarian and political context is complex, fragile and often invisible with the majority of refugees widely dispersed throughout the country and a non-formal camp policy.

Additionally, 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 already limited child protection services and the host communities. In response, there has been a rapid scale up of child protection in emergencies (CPIE) programming undertaken by a diverse range of actors with different approaches to and varying levels of expertise in CPIE work.

The Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group (CPIEWG)¹ strategy aims to provide a framework for the child protection sector's response to the child protection issues exacerbated or emerging from the Syrian crisis. It identifies and focuses on key evidenced based child protection priorities and adopts an integrated approach to programming aimed at building the resilience of boys and girls through the provision of prevention and response services. It also relies on the use of advocacy and sensitisation strategies which seek to promote, address and mitigate violence, neglect, exploitation and abuse against children.

The strategy provides a common understanding on prioritised child protection concerns for CPIEWG members to deliver a more effective and coordinated response. It complements the Lebanon regional response plans (RRP version 5 and 6) and falls within the scope of the Protection Working Group Strategy – September 2013.

The CPIEWG strategy promotes adherence to the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action² and is grounded on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children and the UNHCR Framework for the Protection of Children.

II. Humanitarian Context

The humanitarian situation in Lebanon has dramatically deteriorated since the onset of the conflict in Syria in March 2011. Intensification of fighting in Syria since October 2012 has resulted in a rapid acceleration of refugee outflow into Lebanon throughout 2013³. According to the Rapid Response Plan v5, it is anticipated that by the end of 2013 there will be 2.4 million

¹ The CPIEWG is the Child Protection coordination forum responding to the Syrian crisis in Lebanon. It aims to bring together international and national agencies and organisations, academics and government actors to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against refugee and Lebanese children affected by the Syrian crisis. As at August 2013, there were over 40 active members of the CPIEWG including seven UN agencies, 22 INGOs, nine national NGOs and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

² <http://cpwg.net/minimum-standards/>

³ Over 730,000 Syrians are registered or awaiting registration as at early September 2013. At the start of 2013 there were approximately 130,000 registered Syrian refugees. Nine months later that number has increased more than five-fold.

crisis-affected and vulnerable people in Lebanon, including Syrian refugees, Lebanese returnees and Palestinian refugees from Syria. Also included in this number are 1.2 million vulnerable members of the Lebanese and Palestinian hosting communities. Over half of the populations affected by the Syrian crisis in Lebanon are children⁴.

Lebanon has a non-camp policy for Syrian refugees. Persons fleeing Syria are widely dispersed across more than 1,400 municipalities, including 12 Palestine refugee camps in rented apartments and increasingly in impoverished shelters such as ‘informal tented settlements’ or squatting in disused buildings, as the availability of affordable accommodation and host family arrangements diminish. Palestinian refugees for Syria (PRS) are living for the most part in over-crowded Palestinian camps or gatherings, hosted by an already vulnerable population. The most impoverished regions of Lebanon – North Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley— continue to bear the largest burden of displacement, although increasingly refugees are moving to areas just outside Beirut and into the South.

The Government extends public services to Syrian refugees, and PRS are able to access basic assistance from UNRWA, but local capacities are increasingly stretched and unable to cope with the additional demand. As the crisis drags on with refugees comprising almost 25% of the people in Lebanon, increased competition for jobs, overcrowding and pressure placed on basic services as well as perceived bias of international aid delivery toward refugees from Syria is placing an intolerable strain on local communities and consequently exacerbating tensions between host communities and refugees⁵.

The security situation in Lebanon remains volatile with regular shelling at the border areas and internal sectarian clashes. Restricted humanitarian access along the borders has resulted in limited information being available to decision-makers on the child protection needs and capacities of the affected communities and limited the delivery of services to these areas.

III. Child Protection Situation

Children are paying the heaviest price for the on-going conflict. The majority of boys and girls arriving from Syria have witnessed and experienced harrowing atrocities, violence and destruction and many have lost family members and friends. These experiences can significantly impact on a child’s safety, wellbeing and his/her resilience against vulnerabilities s/he is exposed to, once displaced in Lebanon.

A. Overview of Lebanese Child Protection System

A legal framework is in place to provide protection for children in Lebanon. Lebanon ratified the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. However, the state of Lebanon has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict which it signed in February 2002 and has not signed the Convention relating to the status of refugees.

⁴ Syria Regional Response – Inter-Agency information sharing portal
<https://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122>

⁵ ‘Under Pressure - the impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis on Host communities in Lebanon, World Vision, July 2013.

Since 2000, a number of legislative measures relating to child welfare have been introduced, most importantly Law 422 of 6 June 2002 on 'Protection of Minors in Conflict with the Law or At Risk'. This law establishes judicial processes for dealing with serious abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation perpetrated against children.

At the Government level, child protection issues are coordinated through the Department of Protection of Minors and the Higher Council for Childhood, within the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA). To respond to the wave of Syrian refugees entering Lebanon, MOSA is providing child protection services to Syrian refugees through 27 of their Social Development Centres⁶ and through contracted non-governmental organisations.

B. Child Protection Concerns

Several assessments, including the inter-agency Child Protection Rapid Assessment (January-February 2013), have been conducted in Lebanon since the start of the conflict, identifying the following child protection concerns:

Psychosocial distress

High levels of psychosocial distress have been reported in children coming from Syria. Some of the symptoms identified amongst children 4-10 years old include hyperactivity, crying, psychosomatic and sleep disorders; and anxiety and low self-esteem amongst 10-14 years old. Boys show aggressive violent behaviour whilst girls are reported to express fear. Caregivers carry the heavy burden of their own distress and are not always able to provide attention to children's needs. The main sources of stress for children are the often unsafe, crowded and poor living conditions, lack of recreation and education opportunities, uncertainty about the future and the concept of death.

Unaccompanied and separated children

Over 1,700 Syrian⁷ and over 200 PRS⁸ children have faced separation from their families, some of whom remain unaccompanied. Children are separated during displacement in Syria, at the border, and deliberately during displacement in Lebanon as a means for families to cope. The most common reasons for separation are population movement, the need for children to work (including parents sending their children to work in other parts of the country), a lack of space in accommodation and family tension. The main risks for separated and unaccompanied children include psychosocial distress and trauma, child recruitment, abuse and exploitation, child labour, drug use and begging.

Physical violence and verbal harassment

There are widespread reports of children from Syria being subjected to physical violence and harassment by host community members in the form of street fights with Syrian boys, bullying in schools (by teachers and students) and verbal abuse directed especially towards Syrian girls in the streets. Discrimination against Syrian and Palestinian children exists and Lebanese families often prevent their children from interacting with refugee children. Children most at

⁶ With support from UNHCR and UNICEF, 27 SDCs have been identified by MoSA to respond to the Syrian crisis in 2013. Plans exist to scale up the number of these SDC's to 50.

⁷ UNHCR registration database as of 13 September 2013

⁸ UNRWA

risk are those without strong family support such as unaccompanied or separated children, those living in female headed household and girls aged 12-18 years at risk of early marriage. Refugee families often respond by keeping their children, especially girls, at home.

Physical violence and exploitation against children also occur within the home. There is limited data on the populations of concern due to the rarity of disclosure within a close-knit family/community environment.

Physical injury and danger

The presence of landmines, unexploded ordinances (UXOs) and cross-border shelling has resulted in a number of deaths and permanent physical disabilities of children. Children often lack the awareness of the risks of mines and UXOs, thus approach or play with these remnants and suffering serious injuries.

Children associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFGs)

Anecdotal reports suggest the presence of former CAAFGs in Lebanon. Recruitment mostly affects teenage boys who are motivated by a sense of obligation to their families and communities and who have lacked access to livelihood opportunities.

Child labour

To cope with the economic hardship faced by the crisis, increasing numbers of families are forcing their children to work and contribute to household income. Field reports suggest that a large proportion of these children are involved in the worst forms of child labour (WFCL)⁹. Children have reportedly left school to find work, they often work long hours and are paid substandard wages or not at all. At times children are beaten and insulted in the workplace and exploited by employers.

Boys often start working from the age of 10 years and some travel long distances to cities or outside of the country to find work. The most common types of employment for boys are working in agriculture, construction, carpentry, masonry and mechanics, whilst for girls agricultural and domestic work is more common. Most girls are also expected to undertake unpaid work at home. Begging and selling items, including at night, are a common means of raising income for both boys and girls in urban centres.

Obstacles to birth registration

Many refugee families are failing to register the births of children born in Lebanon. Comprehensive registration of Syrian and PRS refugee births in Lebanon is essential to enhance child protection in the country of asylum while also preventing statelessness by providing documentation of the link between

⁹ As defined in Article 3 of **ILO Convention No. 182**

(a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

(b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

(c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;

(d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

the child and his or her parents. Challenges faced include low levels of awareness among the refugee population and significant procedural barriers, including the requirement for identity documents, proof of marriage, legal stay and cost. PRS have additional obstacles due to requirements to renew their visas every three months (instead of every 6 months) and stricter document requirements. The RRP5 estimates that by the end of 2013 '10,000 Syrian babies born in Lebanon will require birth certificates'.

Limited access to child protection services

Barriers for accessing services include transport costs, travel restrictions, the lack of awareness of available services, no gender segregation in service delivery, discrimination against refugees, fear of stigmatisation and lack of documentation — a condition for accessing services. There is also very little attention given to making services inclusive for children with disabilities and a gap in services targeting adolescents.

IV. Operational Challenges and Gaps

Limitations of national child protection system: Law 422, the main child protection law in Lebanon has a number of important limitations. It focuses more on children in conflict with the law and creates a 'last resort' response mechanism for children already in crisis. The few professionals operating under Law 422¹⁰ lack the capacity to manage all cases that require a judicial process and have received limited specialized skills-based training for applying the law's provisions. Formal links between social workers within the Ministry of Justice and those within MOSA do not exist to ensure the follow-up of cases and the lack of standard operational procedures to applying the law 422 remains a major obstacle. The consequence of the Syrian crisis in Lebanon has further accentuated the existing gaps in the current national child protection system. However, more recently, the GOL has sought to undertake a revision of Law 422 to address some of these limitations.

Lack of specialised child protection services: There is a lack of an alternative family-based care framework to guide interim care arrangements, including as a last resort emergency shelters, for the most serious cases. This is particularly important for unaccompanied children and teenage boys. The presence of expertise to address severe forms of distress among children as well as adults in complex emergencies is also a gap.

Challenges to reach a scattered affected population: With a widely dispersed and often non-visible affected population, detecting child protection cases is challenging and interventions are expensive, time-consuming, logistically demanding and difficult to coordinate. The remoteness of many locations makes it difficult to disseminate information and deliver services.

Cultural attitudes and beliefs may promote harmful practices or increase protection risks for children. For example, child labour is perceived by families as an acceptable and essential means to generate income in the absence of alternative livelihood opportunities. This is

¹⁰ L'Union pour la Protection de l'Enfance au Liban / The Union for the Protection of Children in Lebanon (UPEL) is the agency mandated by Law 422 to provide protective services to children who are referred to the statutory system. Provision of such services to children at risk is thus reliant on the financial stability and human resource capacity of UPEL.

furthermore reinforced through national labour laws¹¹. Culture can also be a barrier to preventing or responding to child protection concerns. Play time for children is not always valued, which can have implications for psychosocial and recreational activities and sensitivity within families and communities of disclosing violations against children often means that remedial and response action is not taken and individual needs are not addressed.

The capacity required to address the scale, demand and need for child protection in emergency responses is insufficient with a limited number of persons formally trained on providing psychosocial services, casework and referral. At times, a response may depend on an individual workers' understanding of what constitutes child abuse and violence.

Insecure operational environment impedes access to or delays the roll-out of interventions to affected communities in particular in border areas and localities regularly experiencing volatile tensions, such as Tripoli.

V. Guiding Principles and Minimum Standards

The work of the CPIEWG is guided by the *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*¹². These Standards are underpinned by six protection principles, outlined here with specific reference to child protection:

- Principle 1: Avoid exposing people to further harm as a result of your actions
- Principle 2: Ensure people's access to impartial assistance
- Principle 3: Protect people from physical and psychological harm arising from violence and coercion
- Principle 4: Assist people to claim their rights, access available remedies and recover from the effects of abuse
- Principle 5: Strengthen child protection systems
- Principle 6: Strengthen children's resilience in humanitarian action

Child participation and the *best interest of the child* are also fundamental principles guiding the CPIEWG strategy and actions of its members to protect children.

VI. The Strategic Framework

The Child Protection in Emergencies strategic framework sets out plans designed to deliver immediate and sustainable interventions to address the urgent protection needs of children affected by the Syrian crisis in Lebanon.

The strategy focuses on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable children in Lebanon and the challenge of a widely scattered affected population by **employing a community-based model**. Dispersed populations are reached through multiple 'gateways' within the community

¹¹ Under GoL Labour Code (1946) Art. 22 & 23 (modified Law no. 536, 1996 and decree no. 700, 1999), the minimum age for employment is 13 years.

¹² Global Child Protection Working Group 2012

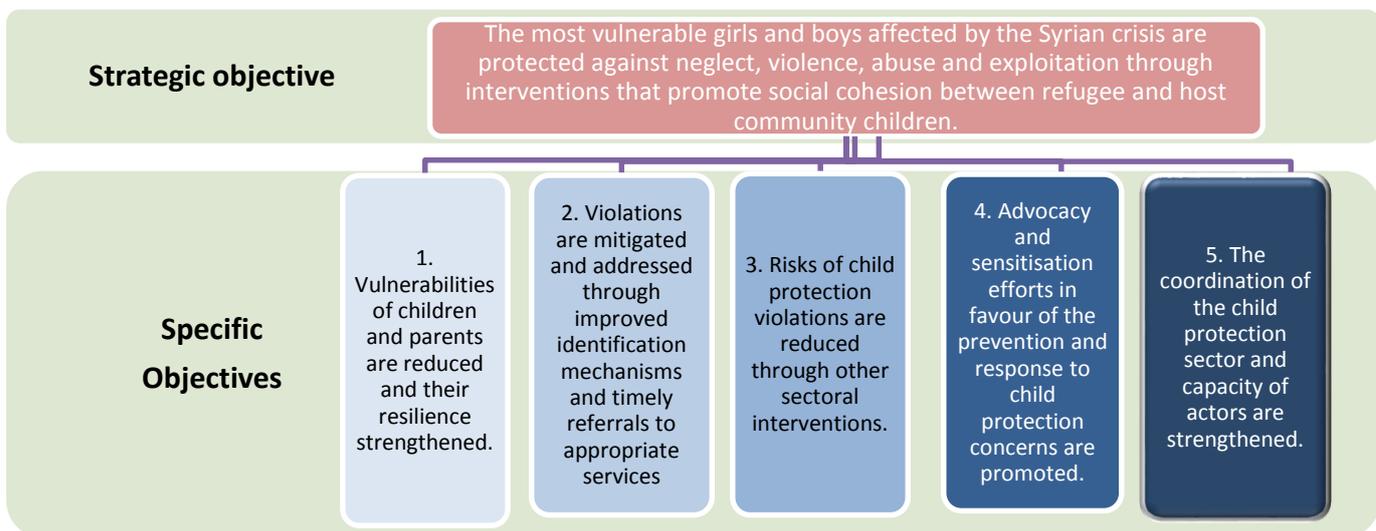
and through individual households in the most vulnerable locations via a combination of **centre and outreach-based interventions**. It also seeks to **engage more local actors**, including beneficiaries, national NGOs and CBOs, who have stronger links with affected communities and a wider influential reach, to coordinate their efforts to respond to child protection concerns. Furthermore, the strategy emphasises **building the capacity of actors**, especially in the field, to monitor child protection issues, deliver quality programmes and work effectively with children and their caregivers to improve the impact of the child protection sector.

The strategy takes an integrated approach to programming, by including other key sectors such as health, WASH and education in the provision of child protection services.

To address the deteriorating relations between host/refugee communities, the strategy **promotes social cohesion** and aims to draw attention to positive relations built between host and refugee communities (including Palestinian refugees). The strategy also aims to **reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen the resilience** of affected children, families and communities to withstand and recover from shocks and threats and to positively adapt and transform in the face of them. Given their specific vulnerabilities, the strategy emphasises **addressing the specific needs of adolescents**.

To encompass the different spheres of action and types of activities required to meet child protection needs in Lebanon, the CPIEWG strategy includes preventive actions; response activities; remedial actions; and environment and systems building initiatives¹³.

A. Objectives



¹³ Use of the egg model as a protection framework. Protection: A guide for humanitarian agencies, ALNAP 2005 pp 42-43

B. Scope of Intervention

The strategy aims to address the protection needs of all children¹⁴ in Lebanon affected by the Syrian Crisis. These include:

- ✚ Syrian refugee boys and girls (registered and unregistered)
- ✚ Palestinian refugee boys and girls arriving from Syria
- ✚ Lebanese girls and boys returning from Syria
- ✚ Boys and girls from the most vulnerable host communities

Prioritisation will be given to children at high risk of abuse and violence who require immediate assistance. These include:

- ✓ Children victim of abuse, aggression, physical and or psychological violence
- ✓ Unaccompanied children
- ✓ Separated children under suspicious care, abuse or neglect
- ✓ Children engaged in the worst form of child labour
- ✓ Children associated with armed groups
- ✓ Children victims of torture

Additional priority cases include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Children suffering from psychological distress
- ✓ Children in the street and at risk of trafficking
- ✓ Children without documentation (including birth registration)
- ✓ Children with disabilities (physical and mental)
- ✓ Children in conflict with the law
- ✓ Children of marginalised populations (ethnic, religious groups)

CPIEWG interventions will focus on localities identified as the most affected by the Syrian crisis where children are most at risk of abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect and the level of child protection needs are comparatively higher. Priority is to be given to geographical localities identified as 'most vulnerable'¹⁵ and in areas where security is tense or unstable or where tensions between refugee and host communities are precarious.

Interventions will be carried out either through existing static structures or through mobile outreach services to informal shelters or structures that host fewer children. Priority gateways include:

- Social Development Centres
- UNHCR Registration Centres
- Community Centres (or municipality assigned areas)
- Tented Settlements (informal and formal)

¹⁴under the age of 18 years

¹⁵ A UNICEF vulnerability mapping exercise, using Lebanese poverty data and UNHCR refugee registration data identified 182 most vulnerable localities in Lebanon, which hosts 85 per cent of the registered refugee population and more than 68 per cent of vulnerable Lebanese. See UNICEF, *UNICEF Lebanon: Equity in Humanitarian Action* (June 2013)

- Reception or transit sites (if operationalized)
- Collective shelters and centres
- Palestinian Camps (and Syrian, if introduced)
- Schools
- Distribution sites
- Official border crossing points
- Residences (rented apartments or private dwellings)
- Emergency shelters and safe spaces
- Public health centres and hospitals

Other gateways include open spaces (municipality parks, playgrounds, streets), civil registration offices, religious centres, rehabilitation centres, scout halls, detention facilities, police stations, courts & judge chambers.

C. Action Plan

Strategic Objective: The most vulnerable girls and boys affected by the Syrian crisis are protected against neglect, violence, abuse and exploitation through interventions that promote social cohesion between refugee and host community children.

Specific Objectives	Outputs	Key Interventions	Indicators	Organisations
1. Vulnerabilities of children and parents are reduced and their resilience strengthened.	<p>1.1 Psychosocial distress levels are reduced.</p> <p>1.2 The risk of death or injury caused by mines/UXOs is reduced.</p> <p>1.3 Government actors and local communities in the most affected areas are more aware of the risks to children and provide a protective environment.</p> <p>1.4 Social cohesion between refugee and host community children is promoted through joint-targeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Psychosocial support and recreational services provided to children and caregivers through static and mobile child friendly spaces. ✓ Distribute ECD and recreational kits to facilitate recreational activities ✓ Mine risk education and awareness ✓ Sensitization sessions to children, parents, and community members on child protection issues (eg. risks of WFCL, child recruitment, importance of birth registration etc) and positive parenting ✓ Improve access to child friendly spaces for all children, including those with disabilities ✓ Provide opportunities for girls and boys to adapt and recover from conflict/displacement and reduce their 	<p># of children benefiting from PSS or recreational services</p> <p># of caregivers accessing PSS-related services</p> <p># of children receiving MRE training</p> <p># of awareness raising/ sensitization sessions</p> <p># of community members (including children) sensitised</p>	<p>ACH, Amel, Arc-en-Ceil, AVSI, Beyond, DRC, INTERSOS, MC, MS, SCI, SAWA, TDHI, TDHL, WCH, AUB, Balamaad University, Unicef, SHEILD, UNHCR, World Vision</p>

	1.5 Girls and boys are protected from harmful coping mechanisms, in particular those related to or made worse by the crisis (WFCL).	<p>vulnerabilities (life and vocational skills, non-formal education courses, conflict resolution skills)</p> <p>✓ Support roll-out of GoL action plan to eliminate worst forms of child labour</p>		
2. Child protection violations are mitigated and addressed.	<p>2.1 Boys and girls with urgent protection needs are identified and receive an age-appropriate and timely response.</p> <p>2.2 Special arrangements for protection and care of UASC are established.</p> <p>2.3 Capacity of communities to monitor their risks and refer cases to services is reinforced.</p> <p>2.4 Collaboration with MoSA and UPEL in referring cases is strengthened.</p> <p>2.5 Access to and quality of child-friendly services is improved.</p>	<p>✓ Conduct child protection monitoring in gateways using inter-agency monitoring tools.</p> <p>✓ Identify and refer child protection cases to appropriate services (according to CPIEWG case management standardised procedures and information tools).</p> <p>✓ Establish case planning committees to review individual high-risk cases based on the best interest of the child</p> <p>✓ Identify, establish and maintain community-based alternative care arrangements for UASC and other at risk children</p> <p>✓ Provide family tracing and reunification services for UASC and rehabilitation of former child combatants.</p>	<p># of cases identified</p> <p># of cases referred</p> <p># of UASC identified and assisted</p> <p># of boys and girls who benefit from alternative care arrangements</p> <p># of girls and boys reunified with family members</p> <p># of information tools distributed on child friendly services</p>	<p>Unicef, Amel, ArcenCiel, AVSI, Beyond, DRC, INTERSOS, Mercy Corps, Mouvement Social, MOSA, SCI, TdH-Lausanne, TdH-Italy, WCH, SHEILD, UNHCR, World Vision, UNHCR</p>

	<p>2.6 Information on child protection cases is collected, stored and shared with respect for confidentiality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stimulate/Set-up and support community-based child protection mechanisms to monitor child protection cases ✓ Strengthen links with MOSA and UPEL social workers on case management ✓ Map, update and disseminate information on child-friendly services (through outreach sessions, directories, leaflets etc) to community members and service providers ✓ Provide transportation and encourage group transporting networks to improve access to services ✓ Develop information sharing protocols 	<p># of girls and boys transported to services</p>	
<p>3. Risks of child protection violations are reduced through other sectoral interventions.</p>	<p>3.1 Child protection concerns are reflected in the assessment, design and implementation of other sectoral initiatives.</p> <p>3.2 Beneficiaries of other sectoral interventions include children who are at risk of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conduct joint activities with SGBV TF on early child marriage, sexual exploitation and abuse of girls and boys ✓ Coordinate activities with the education sector so that schools are a secure and safe place for learning that encourages the enrolment of students and prevents drop out 	<p># CP sensitization activities conducted for other sectors</p> <p># of focal points identified and active</p> <p># of staff trained on Code of Conduct</p>	<p>Abaad, KAFA, Beyond Association, SHIELD, World Vision, Unicef, UNHCR</p>

	3.3 The threat of child abuse and exploitation by humanitarian staff working with children is reduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaborate with health sector on mental health related issues and referrals for child cases requiring medical interventions ✓ Ensure food and NFI distributions target children at risk and their families ✓ Sensitise actors in other sectors on CP concerns to identify and report child protection cases to case managers through working group presentations, training sessions, and guidance notes ✓ Develop and ensure the application of a Code of Conduct for all humanitarian workers providing services and support to children 		
4 Advocacy efforts in favour of the prevention and response to child protection concerns are promoted.	<p>4.1. Persons of influence/stake holders take steps to challenge child protection concerns and mobilise necessary resources.</p> <p>4.2. Civil society is supported to advocate for change and hold authorities to account</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop and disseminate inter-agency child protection messages to the media and decision makers. ✓ Develop and disseminate key messages on child protection needs and risks to caregivers, local leaders and community representatives, employers (including through use of theatre, art and music) 	<p># of key messages developed and agreed</p> <p># of information packages developed and distributed</p> <p># of public advocacy</p>	UNICEF, UNHCR, MOSA,

	<p>4.3. International and national child protection related policies and laws are promoted and enforced.</p> <p>4.4. Authorities are supported in adopting and applying judicial instruments related to CP</p> <p>4.5. Girls and boys who come into contact with the justice system are treated in line with international standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conduct public advocacy campaigns to raise the public awareness of child protection issues (birth registration, child labour; preventing domestic violence against children) eg. photo exhibition or event to celebrate inter/national children's days ✓ Produce and distribute CPIE information products (eg. leaflets, posters, videos, success stories, online sources etc) ✓ Provide technical support to GoL to simplify birth registration processes and enforce national legislation that aims to protect children ✓ Advocate with donors for funding of CP initiatives within the CPIEWG strategy 	<p>campaigns conducted</p> <p># of CPIE information products developed and distributed</p>	
<p>5 The coordination of the child protection sector and capacity of child protection actors are strengthened</p>	<p>5.1 Child protection actors are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills needed to carry out quality interventions.</p> <p>5.2 Child Protection interventions are coordinated with equal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop and periodically revise a capacity building strategy and training plan ✓ Conduct CPIE-related and practical skills trainings to members and service providers (eg. minimum standards, case management procedures, PFA, interviewing children) 	<p># of members trained on agreed upon priority training topics</p> <p># of SDC staff trained on agreed upon priority training topics</p>	<p>All members of the CPIEWG</p>

	<p>representation of relevant actors.</p> <p>5.3 Child protection interventions adhere to minimum standards and principles.</p> <p>5.4 Access to funding mechanisms is made available.</p> <p>5.5 Information on child protection concerns and initiatives are collected and shared amongst members in a timely and accessible way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Translate key documents and tools into Arabic to accommodate and include national actors ✓ Maintain and update a contingency plan and stock for worst case scenarios ✓ Disseminate and promote minimum standards for child protection in technical working groups and strategic CPIEWG discussions and documents ✓ Maintain an information portal with reports, assessments, templates, tools, training materials etc that is accessible to all members (eg. dropbox) ✓ Provide access to funding mechanisms (eg. ERF, CERF) and raise the awareness of funding opportunities to members ✓ Conduct joint needs assessments in priority areas 	<p># of projects receiving ERF, CERF and RRP funding</p> <p># and type of key documents translated into Arabic</p> <p># joint needs assessments conducted</p>	
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VII. Coordination and Information Management

The overall objective of coordination is to ensure a timely and effective child protection response to the crisis. Good coordination results in effective programme delivery, identification of gaps and overlaps and successful fundraising. More specifically, coordination of the child protection sector aims to:

- Build a shared situational awareness:
 - ✓ Coordinated child protection needs assessments
 - ✓ Contingency Planning
 - ✓ Regular data sharing and analysis among actors
 - ✓ Reports, maps and updates
- Build common approaches:
 - ✓ Seek consensus on policy, strategic directions, actions, priority interventions and technical aspects of response
 - ✓ Commit to inter-agency standards, procedures, tools and guidance notes
- Develop a collaborative and complementarity response:
 - ✓ Coordination mechanisms – technical working groups, hubs, focal points
 - ✓ Implementation plans – RRP
 - ✓ Create links and partnerships

The Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group (CPIEWG) is the coordination forum responsible for coordinating the child protection sector in Lebanon. It is part of the broader Protection Working Group / sector within the inter-agency coordination structure, led by UNHCR, to support the Government of Lebanon respond to the Syrian Crisis in Lebanon. The CPIEWG is co-led by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), UNICEF and UNHCR.

The national CPIEWG meets monthly in Beirut. It focuses on strategy and policy development, develops inter-agency tools and procedures, conducts national advocacy, harmonises interventions across multiple regions and supports field coordination.

The sub-national CPIE Working Groups for Bekaa (Zahle), T5 (Tripoli) and Akkar (Quobayat) also meet on a monthly basis, whilst in Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon child protection issues are discussed within the broader sub-national Protection Working Group who has a dedicated child protection focal point that liaises with the national CPIEWG. Field meetings are conducted in Arabic or translation is provided to accommodate and include national actors. The sub-national CPIEWGs is responsible to operationalize national tools and strategies, identify and report on child protection concerns and coordinate field activities.

Sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) against children (including child marriage) are addressed by the SGBV Task Force, a separate working group within the Protection Working Group, with which CPIEWG creates operational and coordination links.

To facilitate coordination in the field and across sectors the following mechanisms have been introduced:

Hubs and focal points: Local hubs are identified in each region based on a concentration of affected populations and available services, presence of SDC and child protection actors. For each hub an NGO focal point is identified to enhance local coordination, situation monitoring, identify services and resources available.

Sector focal points: Child protection focal points are identified to attend the working groups of other sectors for the purposes of mainstreaming child protection across other sectors

Information Management

Analysing, sharing, presenting and managing information are essential to effective coordination. This is dependent on members regularly providing, updating, reviewing, and sharing adequate information through standard or harmonized formats, regular updates and a common understanding of the required tools for both information management and broader coordination. Such tools include an activity matrix (5Ws), mapping, assessment forms, monitoring forms, service directories, referral charts and reporting templates. To ensure the flow of information, tools are to be user-friendly and accessible to all members. At the end of each month, members are asked to report against the indicators outlined in the strategy to contribute to monthly reporting, produce maps and identify gaps and funding needs in the response.

To support information management of the CPIEWG, an information management officer is available to the sector to consolidate information from members and a CPIEWG dropbox has been set-up for the sharing and easy accessibility of information and tools for members.

-END -