



# **(Final DRAFT) Refugee Child Protection Strategy 2015**

## **Kurdistan region of Iraq (KR-I)**

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## 1. Introduction

The current Child Protection strategy provides a framework for protection of refugee children from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation, as well as their broader protection as refugees in the Kurdistan region of Iraq (KR-I). The strategy outlines the key objectives and approaches undertaken to achieve these objectives, the coordination mechanisms and partnerships in the area of child protection, as well as performance measurements.

At a general level, UNHCR's Child protection strategy seeks to support families and communities and strengthen the protective environment, taking into account the role of social norms in preventing violence against children and promoting positive social change towards strengthening protection. The strengthening of community networks, specialized services and national child protection systems is fundamental in building a protective environment for children. Advocacy for non-discriminatory access of refugee children to national child protection services and systems is a key area of work for UNHCR.

Closely linked to SGBV and Education strategies for KR-I, the CP Strategy supports achievement of the six goals outlined in **UNHCR's Global Framework on Child Protection**:

1. Girls and boys are safe where they live, learn and play;
2. Children's participation and capacity are integral to their protection;
3. Girls and boys have access to child-friendly procedures;
4. Girls and boys obtain legal documentation;
5. Girls and boys with specific needs receive targeted support;
6. Girls and boys achieve durable solutions in their best interests.

UNHCR action to protect children is guided by the following principles:

- **Systems approach.** Strengthening national child protection systems and services in line with UNHCR's Global Framework for the Protection of Children and designing holistic programming that address the full range of child protection risks.
- **Complementarity.** Working in partnership with States, communities, children, UNICEF and other child protection actors to develop a comprehensive interagency child protection response that maximizes resources and the complementary of all partners' contributions.
- **Urgency.** Ensure prioritization of and immediate response to protection risks for children including prioritizing the most at-risk children.
- **Child's Best Interests.** The best interests of the child is a primary consideration in all decisions and actions undertaken for and with children including during refugee status determination and other protection procedures.
- **Participatory.** Promote the participation of children in their own protection and in all matters affecting them in accordance with their age, gender, maturity and capacity.
- **Equity.** Promote an inclusive and non-discriminatory approach to the protection of refugee children, irrespective of their nationality and place of residence.
- **Inclusivity.** Address the specific risks that boys and girls of specific ages face, as well as children with disabilities and children with other specific backgrounds.
- **Do No Harm.** Conduct actions, procedures and programmes in a way that does not place the child at further risk of harm, including as a result of unintended consequences.
- **Social cohesion.** Strengthen integration of refugee children into their communities and implement programmes in a way that addresses the impact of the refugee influx on communities and promotes social cohesion among refugee and impacted communities.

## **2. Situation analysis**

Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria in March 2011, more than 200,000 Syrian refugees have fled to the KR-I. By mid-March 2015, 246,836 Syrian refugees is hosted in Iraq, of which 97% are residing in the KR-I. Throughout 2014 and beginning 2015 a smaller numbers of new arrivals were received from Syria, often via Turkey. Since October 2014 some 34,000 refugees from Kobane in Syria have crossed via Turkey into the KR-I through the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing. In 2014, the border between KR-I and Syria was open 85% of the time allowing admission to KR-I on humanitarian grounds. Over 56,500 individuals entered Iraq in 2014, of whom 99% were Syrian asylum seekers registered in KR-I. Of those over 60% were previously registered with UNHCR and have been re-activated. Most of the Syrian applicants are ethnic Kurds coming from the northern part of Syria. The planning figure for 2016 is 315,000 Syrian refugees in KR-I, taking into account new arrivals and limited return movements. In addition, the KR-I hosts a fairly stable asylum and refugee case load of 9,340 Palestinians refugees, 19,159 Turkish refugees and 12,548 Iranian refugees. Most of these refugees have been in KR-I for many years and have attained a high level of self-reliance and de facto local integration. In August 2014, a large number of IDPs started arriving in KR-I and the region is in March 2015 hosting some 800,000 IDPs in addition to the refugee population.

During flight to the KR-I, refugees from Syria are exposed to risks such as targeting by armed groups, exploitation or family separation. Assessments carried out by UN and partners also show that many women and girls have experienced one or another form of violence and are exposed to increased risk of violence, exploitation and abuse in KR-I, including early marriage, domestic violence and survival sex. More than 60% of Syrian refugees reside in urban and semi-urban centers where access to essential services is limited. Further to the predominantly urban IDP populations that continue to increase, the capacities of governmental and non-governmental actors have been strained and public services and jobs have become pressured.

Vulnerabilities among the refugee and host population are expected to increase as displacement becomes protracted and the limited resources of refugees are further strained. Currently, over 20,000 persons with specific needs are amongst the registered Syrian refugee population.

The protection environment in each of the three governorates of the KR-I, differ according the local context. For example in Dohuk, which has two (unofficial) border crossing points with Syria and Turkey, some of the main protection concerns involve the risks of detention and refoulement, whereas in Erbil, due to the increasing number of population, there remain gaps in provision of education and other services in urban areas and lack of space available at the camp level.

The constantly changing population dynamics and continued arrivals from Syria and internal displacement have impact of the security situation on humanitarian space and need to be reflected in the key protection priorities.

As the Syrian conflict is now entering its fifth year more attention will also be given to the sustainability of the refugee programme. Where feasible, the refugee programme and quality national services will be further integrated, allowing for increased resilience and sustainability of humanitarian responses.

Children constitute 42 % of the registered Syrian population. According to UNICEF, a total of 3,370 children who required specialized care and support have been identified among the IDPs and refugee communities in the KRI in 2014. In total, as of January 2015, 1199 separated refugee

children (232 girls; 842 boys) and 581 unaccompanied refugee children ((39 girls, 542 boys) were registered across the KR-I according to Progres data.

Various assessments undertaken by the CP actors reveal that children have witnessed the horrors of war and have been directly affected by the conflict in Syria. Since protective mechanisms in a normal, stable, environment have been broken, children and their caregivers must adapt and cope with their current situations. As a result of this instability and vulnerability, coping mechanisms have led to an increase in child protection risks such as early marriage, survival sex, worst forms of child labour, neglect and abuse of children and violence against children.

#### A. National and international legal Framework

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) entered into force in Iraq on 15 July 1994<sup>1</sup> and the new Iraqi Constitution, approved by a referendum that took place in 2005 endorsed the CRC.<sup>2</sup> Optional Protocols to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2002) and the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography have been ratified in 2008.

The 1987 Labor Law, as amended by the Coalition Provisional Authority Order Number 89, sets the minimum age for employment at 15 and prohibits anyone under age 18 from engaging in hazardous work.

Article 29 of the Iraqi Constitution speaks to the protection of children: in subsection (1)(B)[...] that the State shall guarantee the protection of [...] childhood [...] shall care for children and youth, and shall provide them with the appropriate conditions to develop their talents and abilities. -Article 29(2) states that Children have the right to upbringing, care and education from their parents. Parents have the right to respect and care from their children, especially in times of need, disability, and old age. Article 29(3) prohibits exploitation of children and Article 29 (4) bans all forms of violence and abuse in the family, school and society.

The Iraqi constitution also prohibits trafficking of women and children and the sex trade. Law No. 8/1988 on combating prostitution comprehensively prohibits prostitution, including uses of persons for prostitution. Order No. 89 outlaws child prostitution and child pornography; violations are punishable by imprisonment. The Penal Code does not directly address or establish penalties for human trafficking, although child trafficking is punishable by up to three months of imprisonment under Order Number 89. The Constitution also 'guarantees the protection of motherhood, and childhood' and commits to 'care for children and youth and provides them with the appropriate conditions to further their talents and abilities'; in addition 'all forms of violence and abuse in the family, school and society are prohibited' as is economic exploitation of children.<sup>3</sup>

On 7 May 2013, the Council of Representatives passed the Amendment to the Social Care Law no. 126 of 1980, which provides greater protection and care to children in shelters, state houses, and orphanages. The amendments specifically provide protection to children who are the victims of domestic violence and those who are under the care of the State.<sup>4</sup>

In terms of the international treaties applicable to Iraq, in addition to the CRC, ILO convention 138 is also applicable, as the convention was ratified on the 13 February 1985, specifying the minimum age

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Save the Children Sweden, (August 2008), "Child Rights Situational Analysis for MENA Region", p.43

<sup>2</sup>ibid

<sup>3</sup>ibid

<sup>4</sup> UNAMI and OHCHR, "Report on Human Rights in Iraq: January – June 2013", (2013), p.34, [http://www.uniraq.org/images/humanrights/HRO\\_Human%20Rights%20Report%20January%20-%20June%202013\\_FINAL\\_ENG\\_15Dec2013%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.uniraq.org/images/humanrights/HRO_Human%20Rights%20Report%20January%20-%20June%202013_FINAL_ENG_15Dec2013%20(2).pdf)

at which a child can legally work at 15 years. Furthermore, ILO convention 182 on the worst forms of Child Labor was ratified on the 9th July 2001.<sup>5</sup>

With regard to children, the Kurdistan Parliament formally ratified the child protection law on 28 July 2013;<sup>6</sup> the law focuses on children's rights in general, with a particular focus on children with special needs, and school enrolment to ensure an inclusive environment. According to the law, it is the duty of the government to enhance citizen's understanding of child rights, and to address challenges regarding child labor. Child protection, care and education are the responsibility of the families, schools, citizens, society and the State. The best interests of the child must be of primary concern to agencies, organizations, families and individuals.<sup>7</sup>

In the KR-I, legislation to protect children is more progressive than in Iraq (Central and South) but its application remains limited. For example, in KR-I, the legal age of marriage is 18 years and with consent of parents, from 15 years onwards. In practice, marriage of children below 15 years continues to occur without legal consequences.

The institutional framework to protect children is generally in need of significant support to meet the protection needs of children, and particularly those of displaced children.

Since 2014, UNICEF is leading a Child Protection Law and Policy reform project, also addressing children displaced as a result of conflicts, supported by the American University of Beirut, and it is expected project will result in amendments to law and policy which eventually will improve the protection environment for children in Iraq.

## B. Knowledge and data

The current regional refugee co-ordination mechanism, that includes a Child protection sub-working group, provides for systematic review and analysis of the child-specific assessments in the operational areas of the KR-I.

A joint UNHCR/REACH *Multi-Sector Needs Assessment on the Comparative Analysis of Syrian Refugees Staying Inside and Outside Camps* conducted in August/September 2014 reported that in the KRI, 95% of refugees in camps are able to afford the costs of meeting their basic needs including food, water, fuel, transport, clothing, hygiene items, healthcare, education, and rent as opposed to 70% outside camps<sup>8</sup>. The UNHCR/REACH *Multi-Sector Needs Assessment of Syrian Refugees Outside Camps* also found that among households with one or more children, Erbil governorate has significantly higher rates of households not receiving any type of assistance since their arrival (74%) than Dohuk (13%) and Sulaymaniyah (33%)<sup>9</sup>. The UNHCR/REACH *Multi-Sector Needs Assessment of Syrian Refugees In Camps* conducted in May 2014 highlighted female headed households as the most vulnerable households across the KRI. Due to a male dominated job market and the fact that it is more difficult for a single adult to earn a living, a household headed by a single woman is more vulnerable from a livelihoods perspective. Of the female headed households, 24% were reported as widowed<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> International Labour Organisation, "ILO Conventions and Recommendations on Child Labour" <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/ILOconventionsonchildlabour/lang-en/index.htm>

<sup>6</sup> See more at: <http://www.peyamner.com/english/PNAnews.aspx?ID=316864#sthash.obaXs2yi.dpuf>

<sup>7</sup> See more at: <http://www.peyamner.com/english/PNAnews.aspx?ID=316864#sthash.obaXs2yi.dpuf>

<sup>8</sup> *Multi-Sector Needs Assessment – Comparative Analysis of Syrian Refugees Staying In and Outside Camps*, UNHCR/REACH (September 2014).

<sup>9</sup> *Multi-Sector Needs Assessment of Syrian Refugees Outside Camps*, UNHCR/REACH (September 2014).

<sup>10</sup> *Multi-Sector Needs Assessment of Syrian Refugees Inside Camps*, UNHCR/REACH (May 2014).

An Inter-Agency Child Protection Assessment, carried out in 7 refugee locations in late 2013, identified key issues pertaining to unaccompanied and separated children, physical danger and violence against children, psychological wellbeing and community support, access to information, exploitation of children, sexual violence and children and armed forces. Further, it highlighted changes in children's behaviours after fleeing from Syria including: aggressiveness, violence against younger children, unwillingness to go to school, disrespectful behaviour within the family, and criminal acts. The assessment also reported that on average each key informant was aware of 1-10 children who were separated from their families. Cases of children at risk also included exploitation of children where they were being used for farm work or have resorted to begging<sup>11</sup>. There has been a growing focus amongst the humanitarian community towards the immediate needs of internally displaced children and families across Iraq. This has led to a lack of continued support towards displaced Syrian refugees, with many interventions coming to an end despite their continued struggle as refugees in Iraq. The duress of the war and the flight from Syria has had serious negative implications on children's psychological wellbeing. Many children have witnessed violence in Syria, and have either lost relatives or have been separated from family or relatives during the conflict. It is critical to continue supporting Syrian refugee programmes as their coping capacity is also affected by the Iraq crisis.

Refugee as well as IDP children have expressed concerns during 2014 participatory assessments in the KR-I that few services are available, taking into consideration the specific needs of children. Concerns such as early and forced marriage and child labour are exponentially growing during displacement, due to increasing poverty, lack of livelihood opportunities for families, lack of access to in particular secondary education, and the negative coping mechanisms of the displaced families. Social norms, culture and tradition generally do not offer protection against these child rights violations.

### **3. Strategic objectives and approaches**

Within the global framework and in line with the priorities identified in the child protection sector of the Syria regional response, UNHCR Iraq will work on the following strategic objectives to protect refugee children.

#### **Objective 1: Every boy and girl identified with a specific protection risk receives quality specialized child protection services in line with their best interests**

UNHCR will work to ensure that every boy and girl identified with a specific protection risk – including children at risk and separated and unaccompanied children - receives specialised child protection services in line with their best interest. UNHCR and partners will provide integrated case management including Best Interests Assessment and where relevant Best Interests Determination for children facing a range of child protection risks. Priority will be given to high and medium risk cases including children who are unaccompanied, experience or are at risk of domestic abuse, all forms of sexual abuse, child recruitment, worst forms of child labour, and/or early marriage or children without appropriate care including children living on streets, and separated children with additional protection concerns. Low risk child protection cases such as separated children in appropriate family care arrangements, or verbal violence will be referred to community volunteers for monitoring and support (see Objective 2 below).

UNHCR will ensure that child protection case management/best interest procedures will be made available to refugee children by:

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<sup>11</sup> *Inter-Agency Child Protection Assessment, Save the Children/ REACH/ ACTED/ UNHCR/ PAO (February 2014).*

1. Strengthening internal UNHCR procedures and capacities to identify and respond to children at risk
2. Establishing partnerships with operational partners and government partners to manage child protection cases
3. Working with members of the CP SCWG to ensure child protection case management services are available equitably for refugee cases, and contribute to interagency case management tools and capacity building initiatives.

UNHCR will therefore both take responsibility for directly providing case management services for child protection cases, primarily through implementing partners, as well as leverage the efforts of other child protection partners including UNICEF, DoLSA and NGOs to provide equitable, quality child protection services to refugees.

UNHCR will strengthen the internal procedures to identify and respond to children at risk in the following ways: develop and regularly update internal child protection SOPs that identify internal child protection focal points in each field office, clarify roles and responsibilities of these staff and internal referral procedures and clarify which services or cases UNHCR should provide or manage directly, and which should be referred to partners; train registration and other UNHCR staff (such as community services) on identification and referral of children at risk; and train child protection focal points on their roles and responsibilities, including managing the referral and follow-up of child protection cases to partners. UNHCR will also ensure that BID panels are operational in each field office and that BID SOPs are finalised and will work towards the integration of government authorities in all BID panels. UNHCR will conduct training for BID panel members and case managers who will present the cases to the BID panel on regular basis (at least yearly and more often if there is significant change in the operational environment). UNHCR will also continue to provide legal advice on child protection issues including documentation and early marriage through partners and UNHCR staff and will provide training to partners and staff to ensure standardised approach to legal advice on key child protection issues.

UNHCR will continue to provide financial and technical support to child protection implementing partners to provide case management services to child refugees at risk. UNHCR will provide technical assistance to these partners to ensure that high and medium risk cases are prioritised and receive quality case management services including BIA and where appropriate BID. UNHCR will work directly with child protection organisations including SAVE, IRC and STEP to ensure that services are available in equitable manner for children in both camps and urban settings , and to ensure that the services address all children at risk, not only unaccompanied or separated children. For unaccompanied children and other children without appropriate care such as children living on streets, UNHCR partners will provide appropriate alternative care including foster care and supported independent living in line with interagency tools and standards on alternative care (see below).

UNHCR will also work with members of the CP SCWG to strengthen the availability and quality of specialised child protection services for refugees. As a first step, UNHCR will map and regularly update listing of case management services for refugees and regularly review the availability of these services to ensure equitable access to services and work to address gaps or duplication in available services, in particular increasing the availability of child protection case management services for refugees in urban settings. UNHCR will prioritize to review and revise the interagency child protection SOPs, together with UNICEF/IRC to: ensure the specificities of the refugee response are integrated and the specific roles and responsibilities for UNHCR in relation to child protection are articulated; clarify information management; develop standardised child protection referral pathways including clarifying who is managing child SGBV, UASC and other at risk children per

location. UNHCR will disseminate case management focal points and referral pathways to implementing partners and other sectors to strengthen the referral of child protection cases and ensure that the child protection referral pathways are harmonised with other relevant referral pathways that UNHCR is responsible for developing/updating (e.g. protection referral pathways for refugees). UNHCR will support the interagency capacity building on child protection under the leadership of UNICEF and IRC through technical input on the specificities of refugee child protection, ensuring UNHCR case management partners and relevant staff participate in the training and if funding allows, financially supporting the training. UNHCR will also advocate for and participate in a quality assurance process for child protection case management services based on the revised SOPs under the CP SCWG.

UNHCR will also support Save the Children to coordinate, develop tools and build capacity on UASC at the KR-I level. This will include collation and reporting on UASC figures for refugees and IDPs, with UNHCR contributing figures on UASC for refugees, coordinating the monitoring and response to trends on UASC, sharing of tools and development of section of the interagency SOPs on UASC. It will also include endorsement by members of the KR-I UASC working group of the interagency alternative care SOPs developed at the Dohuk level and coordinating with DOLSA on formalizing alternative care arrangements in close collaboration with UNICEF and IRC. UNHCR will work with Save the Children to provide training on community monitors for unaccompanied children living independently in the community and monitoring of separated children.

UNHCR will also provide technical input and advocacy into UNHCR and interagency protection initiatives related to child protection. This includes working with SGBV colleagues to support development and implementation of work plan to address child marriage; harmonized case management procedures, advocacy with psychosocial actors, especially implementing partners of UNHCR to provide psychosocial services to prevent domestic violence such as family, couple and individual counselling and anger management; and integration of child protection issues into protection monitoring, advocacy and referral tools and capacity building.

Moreover, UNHCR will prioritize continuous capacity building of protection border monitoring and registration staff to ensure child sensitive protection interventions at border entry points, strengthening advocacy efforts with relevant authorities for safe access to territory and alternative to detention for asylum seeking or refugee children, promotion of family reunification and prevention of family separation.

## **Objective 2: Children, families and communities are supported to better protect children**

UNHCR works to support children, families and communities help refugee children to overcome the effects of conflict and displacement, protect them from further violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and increase the likelihood that children in need of services can access appropriate support. UNHCR and partners works with children, families and communities to promote positive values and practices that protect children and build their resilience.

UNHCR agreements with child protection partners will systematically include engaging community members on community mobilization on child protection. This will be done either through supporting specific child protection committees or outreach workers and/or mainstreaming child protection in broader protection committees or protection outreach workers. These community mobilisers will to facilitate community dialogue and action on the care and protection of children, identify and refer children at risk of violence, abuse, exploitation or separation to child protection case managers. UNHCR will ensure that all UNHCR and partners working on community mobilization for child protection are provided child protection case management focal points and provided



orientation on identification and referral of cases. We will also integrate training on basic child protection awareness raising material and identification and referral of cases into the broader training and capacity building on refugee community mobilization conducted by UNHCR.

UNHCR will also support development and dissemination of interagency tools on community-based child protection, including development of interagency child protection campaign together with other partners in the CP SCWG, including Save the Children and UNICEF to address early marriage and other child protection issues. UNHCR will provide technical support to the development of this campaign, including training on community mobilization on child protection and SGBV and if available, financial support to the campaign. UNHCR child protection and PI colleagues will work with UNHCR staff and implementing partners to support the rollout of the campaign. UNHCR will also share regional tools on community-based child protection, and advocate for all child protection actors, including our implementing partners, to implement structured programmes for parents and children to build their skills to protect children and safely report abuse. In addition, UNHCR will support the rollout of a package to train community volunteers to follow-up on low risk child protection cases and to provide community support to unaccompanied children living independently and low risk separated children cases.

### **Objective 3: More refugee children benefit from quality national child protection systems**

UNHCR will support UNICEF and other actors who lead on the strengthening of national child protection systems, including with DoLSA and will provide information and support to refugees and partners on how to access available national child protection services.

UNHCR will support UNICEF and IRC in their role in building the capacity and clarifying the role of DoLSA in the provision of refugee child protection services. UNHCR will advocate for the inclusion of DoLSA in the quality assurance process on case management services (including PSS services) within the CP SCWG, and advise on appropriate roles and responsibilities for DoLSA in case management per location based on UNHCR and partners experience. UNHCR will also engage DoLSA more proactively in BID panels and training. UNHCR will support UNICEF, Save the Children and IRC to engage MoLSA at ministerial level in KR-I through DoLSA representatives in the 3 governorates in discussions on the alternative care procedures and their role in alternative care arrangements. UNHCR will support ongoing efforts to engage with the Ministry for Labor and Social Affairs to ensure that the development of an alternative care framework aligns with draft legislation on a foster care law (KR-I level)

UNHCR will also ensure that the relevant legal services, and the role of the police and judiciary in providing statutory child protection services, as well as available shelters for children and emergency care is documented as part of the revision of the child protection SOPs and partners are aware of these services and counselled on them as part of legal services.

Birth registration being a crucial tool to enhance child protection, and to prevent statelessness by documenting a child parental link to his or her country of origin, UNHCR will continue supporting the access of refugee children to birth registration through advocacy with the KR-I government to remove procedural barriers to birth and marriage registration; legal counselling by partners, (Quandil, Harikar and CDO) to refugees on how to obtain birth registration; and implementation of awareness raising campaign and tools of the importance of birth and marriage registration and the relevant procedures together with UPP, the KRI authorities and other partners.

UNHCR will also link ensure that education and child protection are effectively integrated. This includes advocating with education partners: for increased focus on access to secondary education; and systematically linking psychosocial programmes in schools to child protection programmes that prevent and respond to violence in the school system – to ensure education is both safe and

supportive. UNHCR will ensure that child protection concerns are mainstreamed in education capacity building and policy development supported by UNHCR. Within child protection UNHCR partners will continue to integrate awareness raising on access to education in community based child protection intervention and child protection case managers will continue to refer of child protection cases to available education services.

**Objective 4: Children are better protected as a result of advocacy and improved knowledge and data on child protection issues**

UNHCR will strengthening reporting on refugee child protection data, through consolidation and standardisation of UNHCR and partners' data, including through the development of agreements with partners on information sharing on child protection. Information management systems on child protection will be strengthened by a core set of indicators with a view to provide greater levels of consistency and disaggregation of data on child protection by age and gender. UNHCR will work with UNICEF and other partners implementing the CPIMS to agree on how information on refugee child protection cases will be consolidated. UNHCR will work with other child protection partners to advocate for increased resources for child protection and more effective prioritisation and standardisation of programmes across partners and locations. UNHCR will ensure that child protection issues are integrated in broader protection advocacy undertaken by the Protection Working Group. UNHCR will continue to monitor child protection issues for refugee children, and work with protection and child protection partners, as well as government authorities to advocate for strengthened protection of refugee children on child protection issues in line with international standards.

To achieve these objectives, UNHCR will deploy the following strategic approaches:

- **Increased focus on prevention.** UNHCR will ensure greater focus on the prevention of child protection risks by strengthening Child Protection Community Based mechanisms, while continuing to support response services.
- **Partnerships.** Government remain UNHCR's primary partners in protection of refugees, and UNHCR will work towards more predictable and sustainable partnerships with key government actors, DoLSA and MoLSA, capitalizing on UNICEF strong collaboration with national CP actors. UNHCR will leverage and collaborate with other actors, particularly UNICEF, to maximise effectiveness and cost efficiency of the response through interagency standards and tools, joint programming, and common advocacy.
- **Coordination.** UNHCR is the lead agency for the protection of refugee children. UNHCR will strengthen our contribution to the coordination mechanism under the Child Protection Sub Cluster Working Group led by UNICEF and Save the Children by ensuring that refugees are proactively addressed and that refugees are integrated in all tools and initiatives developed under the CP SCWG. UNHCR will also engage in collaboration with UNICEF in support to strengthening government leadership for the refugee child protection response through increasing efforts to build coherence and integration with national child protection systems.
- **Mainstreaming child protection.** UNHCR will be working in close collaboration with other technical areas to ensure services are provided in a way that promotes the wellbeing and protection of children, in particular education, SGBV, livelihoods and health and that the respective strategies in the mentioned areas also include linkages to Child Protection.
- **Urban – out of camp policy** UNHCR will increasingly be investing in partnerships providing child protection services to outside camps children in urban areas in line with UNHCR Global out of camp policy. Outreach and quality service provision to out of camp refugees will be

reinforced, as well as the ability to strengthen the response by fully engaging and empowering refugees through community based structures.

## **1. Co-ordination and partnerships**

Child protection coordination falls within the broader Protection sector coordination in UNHCR. UNHCR leads the Protection Working Group in KR-I and co leads the SGBV Sub Working group. In the context of refugee programme, UNHCR is the lead agency, accountable for the protection of refugee children. In KR-I the Child Protection Sub Cluster Working Group remains under the coordination leadership of UNICEF and Save the Children in a hybrid/mixed coordination structure addressing both IDP and refugee children. There is not a functioning Child Protection coordination mechanism at national level.

UNHCR will seek to enhance its role as lead agency for refugee child protection coordination through:

- Engage proactively to integrate refugees in all tools, strategies, key advocacy messages, capacity building plans developed under the CP SCWG.
- Lead development of interagency child protection refugee strategy with CP SCWG partners (adapting internal UNHCR child protection refugee strategy for interagency) towards the eventual development of integrated child protection strategy in 2016
- UNHCR will also support Save the Children under the UASC taskforce under the CPSWG to coordinate, develop tools and build capacity on UASC refugees at the KR-I level.
- Mapping CP case management services for all categories of refugee children at risk and establish standardized referral pathways across the region.
- In collaboration with UNICEF, lead quality assurance process of national CP actors (DoLSA) as service providers for Child Protection Case management services.

In order to efficiently manage the Child protection refugee programme and strengthen delivery against the set strategic objectives, UNHCR will need to directly engage key government counterparts in CP programming and leverage on the refugee child protection programme UNICEF already has initiated with DoLSA. At KR-I level DoLSA and DVAW must be considered as potential partnerships in the areas of advocacy and systems reform.

Furthermore, there is a need to foster coordination and cooperation between the existing community-based Child committees and organizations working in Child protection sub-sector. A particular attention needs to be given to expanding child protection partnerships in urban areas.

The below table reflects the key stakeholders in KR-I operation and the areas where they have comparative advantage:

## **2. Performance Measurement**

The progress in implementation of the strategy will be measured by the relevant performance indicators. The following impact indicators from UNHCR's Results Based Framework and the interagency 3RP plan are selected to measure the impact of the implementation of the current strategy:

Indicators	Baseline 2014-2015	Target 2015  Note for 3RP indicators, targets are interagency targets	Target end 2016
<p><b>Objective 1: Every boy and girl identified with a specific protection risk receives quality specialized child protection services in line with their best interests</b></p> <p>% of girls and boys receiving specialized services (3RP)</p> <p>% of UASC for whom a best interest determination process has been initiated or completed (Focus and 3RP)</p> <p># separated and unaccompanied girls and boys in emergencies reunified or in alternative care (3RP)</p> <p><b>Objective 2: Children, families and communities are supported to better protect children</b></p> <p># girls and boys with access to psychosocial support services (registered)</p> <p># of teachers and PTA members sensitized on CP issues (3RP)</p> <p><b>Objective 3: More refugee children benefit from quality national child protection systems</b></p> <p># of CP stakeholders trained and applying agreed upon standards in their response (3RP)</p> <p># of guidelines and SOPs developed and adopted (3RP)</p> <p>% of children under 12 months old who have been issued birth certificates by the authorities (FOCUS/ RBF)</p> <p><b>Objective 4: Children are better protected as a result of advocacy and improved knowledge and data on child protection</b></p>	N/A	<p>6% of target population in host communities, 10% in camps</p> <p>9700 girls, 10969 boys</p> <p>600 CP stakeholders trained</p> <p>At least on SOP per location (3)</p> <p>75%</p>	TBD

<b>issues</b>		3 surveys, 2 assessments/evaluations	
# of surveys and assessment of child protection issues conducted and widely disseminated (3RP)			