

# Child Protection Sector Sub Working Group

## Jordan

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Draft Terms of Reference  
Updated May 2023

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### 1. Background

As of 30 Nov 2022, Jordan hosted approximately 752,735 registered refugees and asylum seekers, hereinafter persons of concern (PoCs), of all nationalities<sup>1</sup> with diverse protection needs<sup>2</sup>. With no immediate solution in sight to the Syrian situation, and observing the protracted nature of displacement situations from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia, in combination with the COVID-19 pandemic's exacerbation of the preexisting socioeconomic challenges – which is also affecting donor countries' economies – it is evident that closer linkages and more substantial complementarity between development and humanitarian actors are required for an effective and sustainable response.

While some refugees have found ways to become self-reliant, humanitarian needs remain. In fact, preliminary results of the 2022 Vulnerability Assessment Framework Population Survey for Refugees Living in Camps,<sup>3</sup> conducted by UNHCR in collaboration with other actors, document the growing destitution faced by refugees and challenges in the domains of health, shelter, food security, debt levels, income, child labor and gender inequities threatening gains made in recent years, in particular within the area of protection.

As demonstrated by the UNICEF-supported National Study on Violence Against Children in Jordan (2019-2020),<sup>4</sup> a considerable number of children are experiencing direct and indirect forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. The main child protection concerns for children in Jordan, including in the humanitarian situation of the refugee camps, include child marriage, child labour, physical violence, emotional violence, sexual- and gender based violence (SGBV) violence against women, family separation, children in conflict with the law, and children who have been exposed to trauma and psychosocial distress. Children with disabilities, children out of school or children without appropriate parental care are example of children often at heightened risk of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

The Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CP SWG) was established in 2012 to coordinate activities by humanitarian workers designed to prevent, identify and respond to child protection concerns for girls and boys in Jordan, with a particular focus on the humanitarian situation of refugees and other vulnerable groups. The CP SWG is a sub-working group to the Protection Working Group (PWG) with direct reporting requirements.

### 2. Purpose and Scope of the Working Group

The purpose of CP SWG is to serve as a coordination platform for child protection interventions in the humanitarian response, in alignment with the national child protection system. As a coordination mechanism, the CP SWG provide support to national child protection actors for coordinated, high-quality, child-friendly and gender-transformative interventions to child protection cases. Furthermore, the CP SWG provide support to enhance the national child protection system through the humanitarian/development nexus approach, including ensuring child protection

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<sup>1</sup> See [External Statistical Report on UNHCR All Registered People Of Concern Jordan as of 30 November 2022 \(002\).pdf](#). See number of Syrian refugees as of 30 Nov <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97302>

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 1 for definition of 'Protection'.

<sup>3</sup> [Vulnerability Assessment Framework Population Survey of Refugees in Camps, Jordan 2022 - Jordan | ReliefWeb](#)

<sup>4</sup> [National Study on Violence Against Children in Jordan | UNICEF Jordan](#)

interventions, in particular to the refugee crisis, are in line with the national strategic frameworks and objectives, and in close collaboration with governmental entities and local authorities.

### **3. Working Group Objectives**

#### ***Objective 1: Enhance coordination of child protection interventions, applying a humanitarian/development nexus approach***

##### **Outcomes:**

- Convene the relevant actors, government and non-government, within the child protection sector on a regular basis
- Strengthen the coordination of child protection interventions undertaken by CP SWG members and align with national coordination systems;
- Review and align CP SWG documents and interventions with the national and governmental legal and policy framework, including applicable SOPs, in collaboration with relevant actors;
- Collectively respond to requests for technical review, input or advice. These may include funding proposals to other organizations or institutions and planned projects.
- Develop a Strategy and a Work Plan for the CP SWG and revise them at least once a year, and share the Work Plan with CP SWG members as well as the Inter Sector Working Group (ISWG);
- Contribute to the annual development of the Protection Sector Strategy, including establishing a clear timeline for the review, feedback, and revision, considering the needs of the population of concern and other affected populations.
- Ensure that appropriate partners, including government counterparts, are continuously engaged in working group meetings, activities and information-sharing, and promote proactive participations and frequent updates/information exchange;
- Monitor the implementation of child protection interventions, including the alignment with SOPs for all actors involved in the Child Protection response;
- Monitor the implementation and updating of the referral pathways to ensure the referral system focuses on providing prompt and appropriate services to children;
- Promote the application of relevant national and international standards (national protocols, existing policy guidance, global Child Protection Guidelines, etc.);
- Conduct trainings and workshops for CP SWG members, members of other working groups, government counterparts and other relevant stakeholders, service providers and actors, as applicable;
- Support the development/revision/alignment of materials for the purpose of community mobilization and behavior change activities.
- Share best practices and different materials related to child protection

#### ***Objective 2: Strengthen the coordination of monitoring, evaluation and information management for evidence-based interventions***

##### **Outcomes:**

- Coordinate and support monitoring and evaluation of child protection activities, including sharing and harmonizing tools and reporting on sector results;
- Coordinate and support data collection related to child protection, facilitated using agreed upon information management systems (IMSS)
- Conduct regular mappings and assessments in areas related to child protection activities, using a community-participatory approach, to identify trends and emerging issues within the child protection area, to guide and inform planning and project implementation of the CP SWG;

- Review and consolidate existing mappings and assessments on the child protection situation;
- Distribute regular and consistent reports as developed to all stakeholders to keep them informed about the nature and extent of child protection issues, activities undertaken, and results achieved;
- Monitor and assess services provided to children to identify child protection risks and provide recommendations accordingly;
- Monitor mainstreaming of Child Protection through agreed list of indicators in line with the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action;
- Keep sector information contained on the UNHCR data website up to date, including by ensuring the regular updating of 5W matrices and Protection Dashboards, and the development of other information management tools in accordance with other interagency information management and reporting tools;

***Objective 3: Coordinate and support resource mobilization for the CP SWG and its members***

**Outcomes:**

- Support the development of interagency fundraising appeals, such as the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) and the National Priority Matrix.
- Represent the CP SWG in donor forums and interagency funding mechanisms to promote the work of the CP SWG and highlight gaps and needs for the purpose of resource mobilization to the child protection sector
- Keep CP SWG members updated on funding opportunities, requirements and processes
- Prioritize pooled funding proposals according to sector priorities as appropriate
- Participate in funding panels and proposal review (ex: OCHA)

***Objective 4: Cross-sectoral collaboration and mainstreaming of child protection***

**Outcomes:**

- Regularly participate in various sector meetings to advocate for child protection as appropriate, ensuring that assessments, strategies and other work plans include issues related to child protection as applicable;
- Ensure collaboration and coordination with other sectors, working groups and coordination mechanisms;
- Enhance the participation of other sectors in the CP working group;
- Make periodic presentations on key child protection concerns and/or interventions in various fora, such as other working groups, the ISWG and the Inter-Agency Task Force.
- Advocate for specific actions for child protection activities with local and national authorities;
- Advocate for specific actions for child protection with international bodies
- Compile best practices for child protection mainstreaming;
- Develop joint advocacy messages in coordination with other sectors on cross-cutting issues.

**4. Methodologies**

A child protection systems strengthening approach should include actions for duty bearers at all levels – family, community, national and international – to mitigate and respond to the protection risks children are facing. This recognizes that all actors facilitate the circumstances for strengthening national, including community-based, child protection systems, as well as commit to strengthening other national associated systems and sub-system, such as education and health etc.

State actors and partners need to prioritize the protection of children and provide immediate and long-term support to their well-being and development, with an aim to ensuring durable solutions to their problems as soon as possible.

Timely services, interventions and decisions in every child's best interest are essential, as is ensuring that all interventions take into account the different protection and care needs and capacities of girls and boys and their families.

The following guiding principles are adopted by the CP SWG:

- State responsibility
- Urgency
- Non-Discrimination
- Do not Harm
- Partnership
- Family and community-based approach
- Child Participation
- Best Interest of the Child
- Age, Gender and Diversity
- Accountability
- Leave no one behind
- Gender transformative approach
- Working with other sectors (Health, Shelter, Education, Economic Empowerment, Disability and Age, Durable Solutions, and the PSEA Networks) to ensure that child protection considerations guide all aspects of the sectoral child protection response in Jordan

## **5. Working Group Proceedings:**

The CP SWG is a working group under the PWG, within the JRP and 3RP. The CP SWG shall at least meet on a monthly basis, every third Wednesday of each month. Extraordinary meetings and ad-hoc task forces may be created by the Co-Chairs, at the request of members of the CP SWG, or as per urgency and prioritisation of interventions on a national and sub-national level as they arise. These ad-hoc Task Forces and meetings report to the national CP SWG.

The following is needed from the CP SWG meetings:

- Formal minutes of the meetings shall be prepared and shared with the members in due course for inputs/amendments;
- A draft agenda is circulated to members of the CP SWG not later than two days before the regular monthly meeting, giving the members the opportunity to suggest additional items for discussion.
- Relevant documents, such as the minutes, should be posted on the Child Protection Working Group data portal at [Working Group: \[Protection\] Child Protection Sub Working Group - Jordan \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/working-group-protection-child-protection-sub-working-group-jordan)
- The duration of the CP SWG meeting shall be no longer than two hours.
- The Co-Chairs will convene the monthly meetings and form the agenda in consultations with the PWG members and other relevant actors.

Joint meetings between the CP SWG and other working groups will take place as necessary and appropriate. At least two sessions per year will be conducted with the GBV SWG on the following topics of 1) child marriage, and 2) violence against children and women.

## **6. Sector Lead and Co-Lead**

1. Since 2018 UNHCR and UNICEF have acted as Co-Leads of the CP SWG.
2. The CP SWG may elect a new Co-Lead with the agreement of its members.
3. Requirements for appointment as Sector Co-Lead are:
  - a. Recognized technical expertise in the sector;
  - b. Significant operational capacity;
  - c. Capacity to commit time and resources to carry out the responsibilities of the Sector Co-Leadership.

## **7. Membership and responsibilities**

The members of the CP SWG may include national/local non-government organizations (NGOs), national authorities, UN agencies, international NGOs, government entities, community-based organizations (CBOs) as well as donors. The CP SWG co-chairs will brief interested agencies on the Terms of Reference (ToR), Work Plan and the Strategy for the sub-working group, in addition to the roles and responsibilities of the members.

### Responsibilities of CP SWG members include:

- Coordinate planning, projects and assessments with all other actors to avoid duplication and to address gaps, including geographical and programmatic gaps;
- Regularly attend meetings and share information/updates about activities, trends of child protection concerns and challenges encountered in the field;
- Actively participate in the activities of the working group, including leading or participating in specific activities of the coordination group and development of common tools and approaches, including the work plan, the strategy, the logframe and the gap mapping;
- Agree to follow guiding principles for ethical child protection programming;
- Ensure child protection safeguarding / code of conduct / PSEA policies are developed and applied by all actors providing services for, or are in contact with, children.

## **8. Government involvement**

One of the core priorities of the CP SWG is to strengthen the role of national governmental and non-governmental agencies. The CP SWG will ensure to invite key government counterparts to take part of the coordination of child protection in humanitarian settings. The National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) acts as a link between the humanitarian focused CP SWG and the national Family Protection Team, Child Marriage Task Force and the Child Labour Task Force, and facilitates communication at the national level, provide the CP SWG with available or planned national strategies and work plans, changes in roles, policies or regulations at local level, provide updates on urgent national protection issues; networks, data bases, training and funding opportunities. The NCFA will be attending the CP SWG while the CP SWG will advocate for the invitation and participation in the NCFA-led national working groups. In 2023, the role of the NCFA shall be strengthened and a plan shall be developed to, in line with the humanitarian and development nexus approach, merge and align the national coordination of child protection, including for humanitarian settings, to enhance government's leadership role in protecting children in Jordan.

## **9. Field-based SWGs**

Field-based child protection SWGs report to the national CP SWG. These field based groups currently exist in the following locations:

- Zaatari child protection/protection/GBV Sub Working Group,
- Azraq child protection/protection/GBV Sub Working Group,
- Irbid Coordination Meeting
- Mafraq Coordination Meeting.
- Emirati-Jordanian Camp (EJC) Coordination Meeting

## 10. Reporting lines

- A Quarterly Dashboard is produced by the CP SWG, supported by the ISWG;
- The CP SWG reports updates, challenges and key highlights to the PWG, keeping the UNHCR and UNICEF Representatives informed, and ultimately report to the Humanitarian Partners Forum (HPF), which is chaired by the UNHCR Representative.
- The field-based sub-working groups (SWGs) report updates, challenges and key highlights to the national CP SWG based in Amman.
- Child protection-related Task Forces report updates, challenges and key highlights to the CP SWG.

For further information regarding the CP SWG please contact the CP SWG co-chairs:

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