Child Protection Systems

- Child protection systems consist of components, connected around a common goal to protect children, set in a specific context.
- They operate at different levels – from the child to the State and international actors. They may be more or less formal in nature.
- The interactions between components define how systems operate. We need to acknowledge different actors’ perceptions to understand their behavior.
- Systems are unique to the context in which they exist. All aspects of systems reflect inherent sociocultural norms. Recognizing the interplay between sociocultural norms, perceptions, and systems behaviors is helpful.
- Systems change, adapt, and evolve in line with changes in the external environment and internal changes within the system.
- Child protection systems rely significantly on collaboration with other sectors’ systems or areas of activity to deliver the full range of child protection prevention and response actions.
- We speak of systems, not a system, as there will always be systems nested within systems; in some places within one context or nation, there may be several contiguous or disjointed systems.
- Child protection systems that are responsive to humanitarian events have certain key components: living disaster and preparedness plans; disaster and emergency aware and prepared families and communities; skilled, knowledgeable protection actors and workforce; flexibility in functions.