STANDARD 26  

[1] Food security and child protection

[2] Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. [3] In context of food insecurity, children are exposed to different risks and negative coping mechanism. [4] Food assistance is one of the key life-saving responses in humanitarian crises and one that can significantly improve the safety and wellbeing of children. [5] When food security interventions are well-planned and carried out through integrating child protection within each of the four food security pillars – availability, access, stability and utilization – it notably contributes to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children affected by emergencies and crises. [6] An integrated approach is a model based on inclusion and complementarity, valid for all sectors and should be systematically applied.

Standard

[7] Children’s food security is granted through well planned and carried out food security programmes considering the four pillars of availability, access, stability and utilization that safeguard girls and boys
Key actions

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

26.1. [8] Work together with food security teams for defining direct and proxy indicators to be used during the food security household surveys to foster and integrated approach on joint analysis response planning and joint targeting;

26.2. [9] Agree which indicators should be used to jointly track situational and response monitoring focusing on the identification of most vulnerable children (for example, children in residential care centers, child head of household, children with disabilities etc.);

26.3. [10] Support food security response in creating a safe and protective environment through their responses (for example, work with them for ensuring the accessibility to assistance of the most vulnerable children, support their efforts for making the food distributions points and the manner of distribution safe and secure for beneficiaries etc.);

26.4. [11] Contribute to better food security response outcomes through the child protection activities facilitating access to information on distributions and other response modalities-including cash-using different media as radio, brochures, etc.;

26.5. [12] Jointly design an accessible awareness, confidential reporting and Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) reporting mechanisms linked it to food security intervention supporting food security pillars of availability and access to humanitarian assistance;

26.6. [13] Work with food security operational staff to ensure they are briefed on child protection vulnerability criteria and how to deal and target with the vulnerable cases they may encounter;

26.7. [14] Integrate child protection staff as advisers within the food security response. Particularly during the targeting of most vulnerable households, distributions and response monitoring;

26.8. [15] Collaborate with the food security coordination mechanisms (cluster, working groups etc.) for regular reviews and updates of the collaboration between child protection and food security; and

26.9. [16] Lobby for the linkages between food security and child protection during the HPC, response evaluations, contingency plans, early recovery phases, resource allocation etc.

KEY ACTIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY ACTORS

26.10. [17] In designing interventions with child protection lens, make sure that assessments examine all the barriers to food access, including threats and rights violations that affect food security to the children affected by the crisis;
26.11. [18] make child protection issues an explicit component of programme design and implementation;
26.12. [19] jointly with child protection actors, develop consistent child protection messages based on humanitarian principles and international law, which allow field staff to engage in advocacy with local leaders, perpetrators, etc.;
26.13. [20] draw attention to the causal links between vulnerability, conflict, abuses, and child rights violations, and food insecurity;
26.14. [21] jointly with child protection actors, adapt existing tools such as post-distribution questionnaires for monitoring protection threats that affect food security;
26.15. [22] ensure women, girls and boys are involved in designing and developing food security interventions, and play a lead role during the implementation of these;
26.16. [23] monitor the nutritional status of women, girls, boys and other at-risk groups, to ensure that assistance reach those for whom they are intended;
26.17. [24] if polygamy is practiced, register adult women in all households (expect single-male-headed households) as main recipients of aid, so second wives and their children are not excluded;
26.18. [25] in food assistance or cash distributions, ensure that child-headed households and unaccompanied and separated children are given ration cards in their own names, in a way that does not cause further separation;
26.19. [26] jointly with child protection actors, identify children at risk (street children, injured children, children with disabilities or child-headed household) and help them access food security assistance;
26.20. [27] collaborate with the child protection coordination mechanisms (cluster, working groups etc.) for regular reviews and updates of the collaboration between child protection and food security;
26.21. [28] advocate for the linkages between food security and child protection during the HPC, response evaluations, contingency plans, early recovery phases, resource allocation etc.

**Measurement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOME INDICATOR</th>
<th>OUTCOME TARGET</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26.1. [29] Percentage of intervention strategies with integrated child protection and food security lenses thanks to collaboration between the sectors.</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION INDICATOR</th>
<th>ACTION TARGET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26.2. [30] Percentage of surveyed unaccompanied children, street children and child-headed households identified through joint targeting criteria that have effective access to food security assistance.</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.3. [31] Percentage of surveyed child-headed households and unaccompanied and separated children identified and registered through food security surveys and monitoring activities</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.4. [32] Percentage of food security activities that took specific measures to deal with any possible risks to girls and boys of all ages, particularly those with special needs</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>26.5. [33] Percentage of surveyed food security staff who have signed</td>
<td>90%</td>
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Guidance notes

26.1. [35] Children most at risk

Children at most at risk might include:

- [37] Unaccompanied and separated children;
- [38] Child-headed households;
- [39] Children with disabilities;
- [40] Single-headed households with large numbers of children;
- [41] Household with young children and elderly carers.

Identification of children most at risk should be a coordinated effort between child protection and food security organizations. [43] The household as a unit may not be applicable to all children — for example, it may not be applicable in cases where children are living alone or in child-headed households, where they are dispersed in groups, or in the case of children living in the street.

26.2. [44] Focal points:

Establishing children focal points (or integrated advisers) within the Food Security sector, working with a child protection counterpart, may facilitate any work to identify and respond to risks, ensure effective representation and collaboration, agree on key decisions and processes, campaign for
integrated services, ensure there is accessible and safe child-friendly approaches within the food security response, and to be able to safely refer child-protection concerns and needs.

26.3. [46] Monitoring:
[47] Monitoring mechanisms from child protection and food security, e.g. post-distribution questionnaires, household survey or situational and response monitoring tools, are key sources of information on whether interventions are following an integrated approach and reaching the most vulnerable groups.

26.4. [48] Targeted assistance:
[49] Food Security and child protection should work together to outline criteria for helping children based on vulnerability to abuse, exploitation and violence. [50] A joint approach on targeting will support both interventions in reaching the most vulnerable groups in need of help and will frame the possibility of joint advocacy message when access to the affected populations is hampered, or resources limited.

26.5. [51] Complaints and reporting mechanisms:
[52] Confidential complaints methods should be set up in collaboration with the communities to receive and investigate allegations. [53] The number and type of complaints should be reviewed regularly by senior staff. [54] Complaints should trigger immediate responses and investigations, as delays may lead to further abuse, including repeated abuse or intimidation of survivors.

[55] References

- WFP (2013). Protection in Practice: Food Assistance with Safety and Dignity