

Frequently Asked Questions: 2019 CPMS

FAQS

The Revision Process

How was the CPMS developed?

The first edition of the *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Actions* (CPMS) was published in 2012 to meet the need for a common framework and agreement on minimum quality standards across child protection in humanitarian action. The 2019 edition updates the original handbook with the latest research, expertise and best practice.

The standards were revised over a 24-month period that included multiple reviews of draft standards by child protection practitioners and other humanitarian actors. Consultation events, including events with affected children and caregivers, were held in 17 different countries at national and local levels. The standards themselves were written by over 50 practitioners with specific expertise and experience in the standard or thematic area. Altogether, over 1,900 individuals from 82 countries contributed to the revision of the standards.

Do you have a concrete example of how consultations with children influenced the development of the 2019 edition of the CPMS?

One of the things children agreed on was the value of child-friendly spaces. This was reflected in the comments of many frontline workers, but much less so among researchers and advisors at the global level. Children found child-friendly and other safe spaces to be important sanctuaries where they can have fun and be supported by caring adults in the community. This feedback informed the development of Standard 15: Group Activities for Child Well-being.

What efforts are being made to harmonise/develop consistency with other protection areas?

Leading representatives from protection, gender-based violence (GBV) and mine action were all involved in the development of the 2019 edition. The Global Protection Cluster, the GBV Area of Responsibility, the Mine

Action Area of Responsibility, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and other thought leaders in broad protection work contributed to relevant standards, including coordination, information management, dangers and injuries, SGBV and more. The CPMS Working Group ensured that references to relevant resources from other protection areas are included in the resources at the end of each standard. The CPMS is also a member of the [Humanitarian Standards Partnership](#) and worked closely with the Sphere Standards, Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and others to ensure complementarity across humanitarian standards.

Has the update of the CPMS triggered updates of the other global guidance?

The update of the CPMS itself was informed by the development of new research and evidence about what works best for child protection in humanitarian action. Resources such as the INSPIRE package, Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for Older People and People with Disabilities, the Core Humanitarian Standard, the World Health Organization and UNHCR's *Assessing Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs and Resources: Toolkit for Humanitarian Settings*, and many more all informed the development of the new standards.

Now that the 2019 CPMS have been launched, other global guidance will be updated in collaboration with key stakeholders. For example, new standards are being developed on camp management and logistics, and these will be linked with the 2019 CPMS. The INEE is also revising their standards for education in emergencies and will link with the 2019 CPMS.

Implementation at Country Level

Who should lead implementation of the CPMS at country level?

At the country level, implementation of the 2019 CPMS should be done as a collaborative, inter-agency effort. We recommend that the national-level coordination group for child protection in humanitarian action (e.g. Child Protection Area of Responsibility, Child Protection Sub-Cluster, Child Protection Working Group) be consulted. Leadership of launch events, trainings and webinars should be decided among child protection actors already involved in the humanitarian response. National NGOs and national civil society organisations should play a leading role, together with government actors, where possible and appropriate.

In the context where I work, we did a lot of work to roll out the 2012 edition. How do we link that work with implementation of this new edition of the CPMS?

Use the Assessment Checklist in this implementation toolkit to determine what types of activities might be helpful to ensure the 2019 CPMS is fully implemented in your context. Please note that the 2019 edition includes significant updates based upon research, learning and operational experience gained in the last seven years. There are several new standards, Pillar 3 has been restructured around the socio-ecological model, and Pillar 4 has shifted to focus on integrated multisectoral approaches. At a minimum, we recommend a "What's New" briefing with key stakeholders at the national and sub-national level to explore the updates in the 2019 edition.



How should governments be involved in the implementation and roll-out of the 2019 edition at country level?

Governments have the primary responsibility for the protection of all children within their territory and in preparedness and response to humanitarian crises. Government ministries and departments frequently participate in and sometimes lead child protection coordination groups, and should be included in inter-agency efforts to implement and roll out the 2019 edition. Wherever possible, the 2019 edition should be institutionalised within government policies and procedures for humanitarian response.

The CPMS Working Group is also partnering with the Child Protection Area of Responsibility to promote the 2019 CPMS in their ongoing work to support groups of governments on preparedness in East Africa, Asia and beyond.

Is the 2019 edition of the CPMS valid during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes, the 2019 CPMS provides critical actions to keep children safe and support children and families' well-being during infectious disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The revision process incorporated lessons learned from the 2015 West Africa Ebola Crisis and builds off the Alliance's Guidance Note on the Protection of Children during Infectious Disease Outbreaks. Throughout the CPMS, you will see the following icon highlighting specific guidance for infectious disease outbreaks:



You can find specific guidance on the use of the 2019 CPMS in the COVID-19 pandemic [here](#). The CPMS Working Group is also gathering case studies and operational experience on how the CPMS has supported child protection responses in humanitarian contexts affected by COVID-19. These will be released in late 2020.

Is the 2019 edition of the CPMS valid for refugee settings?

Yes, the 2019 CPMS is valid and applicable in refugee settings. The CPMS Working Group collaborated with UNHCR and other organisations in refugee contexts to update the entire handbook to consider the unique needs of refugee children and families. For example, Standard 1: Coordination includes specific guidance on the refugee coordination model. Standard 18: Case Management links with UNHCR's Best Interests Procedures. Throughout the standards, the following icon highlights special considerations for children who are refugees:



Has the CPMS been shown to improve cross-border work with children?

Inter-agency coordination groups have confirmed an increase in quality following the application/rollout of the CPMS, including in cross-border contexts. The 2019 edition further strengthens guidance on cross-border work and issues surrounding children on the move, by strengthening the focus on mobile programming and incorporating the latest guidance on children on the move from the International Organization for Migration, UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and more.

Tools and Resources Available

Are there tip sheets or guidance on how to contextualise the 2019 edition?

Yes, the new implementation toolkit includes a section on contextualisation. It guides inter-agency groups on how to contextualise the 2019 CPMS, whether they are starting the process for the first time or need to update work done in contextualising the 2012 edition.

What trainings and capacity-building tools are available?

This implementation toolkit contains an Awareness Raising and Capacity Building overview, as well as a “What’s New in the 2019 CPMS” presentation and two-pager. An updated Face-to-Face Training Package and Frontline Workers Training are forthcoming in 2021. A new introduction video and facilitation guide are also available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. The full CPMS video series is currently being updated and new videos on Pillars 3 and 4 will be available in early 2021. Recordings of the CPMS webinar series are also available [here](#).

We need hard copies of the CPMS handbook. How can we get them?

The CPMS handbook is now available for purchase in English, French, Spanish and Arabic from Practical Action Publishing. Information on ordering can be found [here](#). The CPMS Working Group has a limited number of free copies available for country-level coordination groups, national actors and governments in humanitarian contexts. For free copies, please contact the CPMS Working Group at cpms.comms@alliancecpha.org. Don’t forget the CPMS is also available in an [online interactive version](#), [a mobile phone app](#) and a [downloadable PDF!](#)

I heard the CPMS was available in French, Spanish and Arabic. How do I access these language versions?

The CPMS handbook and its annexes have all been translated into [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#). All materials are available at the Alliance website. You can visit https://alliancecpha.org/en/CPMS_home and select your preferred language in the upper right hand corner.



Will you be generating and collating case studies on operational applications, successes and challenges? And where?

The CPMS Working Group is gathering case studies on the application of the 2019 CPMS and will aim to publish case study collections beginning in early 2021. If you would like to submit a case study for your work related to the 2019 CPMS, please access the case study form in the implementation toolkit. If you require support to draft the case study, please contact the CPMS Working Group at cpms.wg@alliancecpha.org.

