

Contextualising the CPMS

WHAT IS CONTEXTUALISATION?

Contextualisation refers to the process of debating, determining and agreeing on focus and scope of global guidance in a given local situation. It is actively encouraged by the CPMS Working Group and can happen in a variety of ways, of which a workshop is the most common.

Contextualisation serves to:

- ✓ **“Translate”** the meaning and guidance of the standards for the context of a country (or region) so as to make the content of the standards appropriate and meaningful to the given circumstances. For example, during the contextualisation, the organisers will have to define an appropriate number of cases per case worker in a particular setting and discuss frequency of supervision of the case workers to adhere to quality.
- ✓ Make the **sector’s strategic plan more effective**, informing fundraising, advocacy, capacity building, awareness raising, etc.
- ✓ **Engage other sectors** in a concrete dialogue through Pillar 4’s eight standards on CP mainstreaming, joint-programming and integration.
- ✓ Demonstrate to donors the **priority issues** and endorsed approaches.
- ✓ Have a set of standards that the **government can invest in and approve**.
- ✓ Build a **strong community of practitioners and policy makers** who are invested in the development and delivery of quality, measurable protection of all emergency-affected children. In addition to the final product, it can be a **team-building and capacity-building** exercise, where local staff and organisations can take the lead and feel ownership of the process. They are the ones who have the most context-specific knowledge and understanding of systems, processes, laws, policies, etc.

Contextualisation allows the CPMS to be made more relevant, applicable and accessible for *all* individuals and organisations that are responsible for child protection, as well as for children and communities. It provides a common understanding according to the reality of the context.

The CPMS handbook sets out 28 standards, presenting goals that need to be met even in crisis, as they are based on international humanitarian and human rights frameworks. Therefore, it is important that **contextualisation does not lower the national or global standards (whichever is higher)** given the difficult context, or alter the rights-based foundations on which the standards are based. Instead, contextualisation should aspire to reach comparable rights-based objectives by articulating the standards in the most relevant, comprehensive and user-friendly language. Contextualisation can also be completed with existing national standards and policies where appropriate, such as alternative care standards.

WHEN TO CARRY IT OUT?

The limited capacity and resources of those working in child protection, combined with urgent and fast-changing child protection needs, likely necessitates the **prioritisation of some standards above others**, or a phased approach to contextualising. Indeed, the process requires a time commitment and thus it is unwise to embark upon it during the first phase of an L3 emergency. At that stage, it may be more appropriate for one child protection actor to be charged with comparing national and global standards for three or four priority topics and circulating a set of the higher standards. Or alternatively, work with development partners on the CPMS while using the CPMS as a guide during the emergency response, until a time comes when the more formal contextualisation process can continue. Contextualisation is also encouraged as a preparedness measure.

HOW TO DO IT?

The “How-to Guide to Contextualising the CPMS” is a comprehensive tool to assist with this process. A **2.5-day, national-level workshop** is usually the main step in the process of contextualising the Child Protection Minimum Standards for your region/country. However, your context may dictate that other steps (such as a series of shorter workshops, consultation processes at sub-national level, specific workshops for Pillar 4, or collaborative work on a virtual platform) may be more appropriate, and taking a bottom-up approach may be more informative at the national level. Please feel free to contact the CPMS Working Group to discuss options.



Steps to plan the workshop:

1. Form a task group which decides if the workshop will primarily be in English/French/Arabic or another language. Determine whether any translation of documents will be needed. Where local actors are involved, ensure their meaningful participation by choosing a language appropriate for their needs.
2. The task group (or the main organiser) needs to have a detailed dialogue with government colleagues about how the CPMS complements any existing government standards.
3. Using the latest evidence base and good judgement, collectively prioritise nine standards (the maximum for this length of workshop) from the 28 through consultation with child protection actors and an evidence base of the key needs on the ground.
4. Invite a broad array of actors and resource people.
5. It is often helpful to organise a day-long session on the CPMS structure, content, development, history and application to date for newcomers, prior to the actual contextualisation workshop, highlighting the key changes in the revised version.

Who to invite?

Participation is central to the success of this workshop, thus it is planned for 35-40 people, potentially smaller at sub-national level. When deciding who to invite, you should be creative. Don't just invite those who are always invited. Bear in mind that since contextualisation requires deep knowledge of the child protection concerns and opportunities across the country, it is important to include both senior managers and mid-level practitioners from a range of organisations, ensuring that local actors and frontline organisations can participate. At sub-national workshops, smaller associations and community leaders will play more of a role.

Overall, invitees could include:

- ✓ Government departments at central and de-centralised levels
 - ✓ National child protection organisations
 - ✓ Senior programmers and Coordinators from other sectors
 - ✓ International humanitarian organisations working in child protection
 - ✓ Faith groups working in humanitarian action and/or child protection
 - ✓ Existing coordination networks that focus on child protection in development or humanitarian settings
 - ✓ Donors who might be appropriate to invite to part or the entire workshop
 - ✓ Sub-national representatives should be invited to inform national-level workshops
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What materials and support exist?

In addition to the 20-page “How-to Guide”, the CPMS Working Group has developed all the materials necessary to prepare for, run and follow up from a workshop. These include a two-page introduction to the CPMS; a summary of each standard; instructions on prioritising nine standards; a tool for discussion groups; PowerPoint presentations and facilitator’s notes; an agenda; evaluation forms; etc. The CPMS Working Group also has examples of contextualisation processes and outputs from a range of settings, as well as a trained pool of external facilitators to assist.

How to prioritise standards?

In a humanitarian crisis, it is impossible to meet all the needs – tough choices must be made. There are 28 standards in the CPMS that focus on key principles, child protection risks, strategies and integration with other sectors. Prioritisation should be based on the needs of your context looking across these pillar headings. It is therefore suggested that you select at least one standard from each pillar that links to the immediate child protection needs identified. Needs can be identified through a review of key documents such as needs assessments, Humanitarian Needs Overview/Humanitarian Response Plan, child rights situational analysis, child protection information management systems, protection analysis, consultation with children, consultation with other sectors, emergency preparedness plans, etc.

Key areas to consider:

- ✓ Immediate needs of girls and boys based on the risks they face
- ✓ Capacity within country – which chapters would benefit children most through developing minimum standards, which standards are already in place
- ✓ Building the ethical gap – which standards will support principled programming
- ✓ Resources in-country to attain standards
- ✓ Wide reach to beneficiaries
- ✓ Improving existing systems

A bottom-up approach can be used to gather information from regional/sub-national workshops gaining insights from local partners and youth groups of key risks for girls and boys. These can inform a prioritisation exercise at the national level where insights from government can also be captured to select key standards of the CPMS to contextualise. It is also important to outline who will be the key decision makers and how you will decide on chapters. Key questions to consider include whether you will select based on sub-national needs that might be different per location, or a country-wide approach.

It should be noted that nine standards can be prioritised for the 2.5-day workshop and more standards can be prioritised at a later date. Nine standards is a suggestion for the prioritisation workshop, however less can be covered depending on needs and context. The sector can also sequence their prioritisation in a timeline, highlighting the first phase of minimum standards and then second- and third-line contextualisation.



What are the final outputs and follow-up?

The main outcome of the process should be the contextualised standards. This may take the form of a framework document or a full report. Wherever possible, the final text should be graphically designed and include a letter of endorsement from the relevant ministry or national authorities.

Once you have finalised the contextualised standards, you should then:

- ✓ Establish a timeline to revise the Sub-Cluster's strategic plan using the contextualised minimum standards
- ✓ Use the contextualised standards to inform the sector's funding strategy
- ✓ Use the contextualised standards to draft/update a capacity-building plan for the sector
- ✓ Create a strategy to raise awareness among the emergency-affected population and humanitarian colleagues for increased accountability
- ✓ Ensure integration and mainstreaming with prioritised sectors
- ✓ Disseminate the contextualised standards to relevant actors
- ✓ Translate into local languages

ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact the CPMS Working Group at cpms.wg@alliancecpha.org or visit our website at https://alliancecpha.org/en/CPMS_home.

