

Background Paper Survey Responses - Taking Action to Protect Children in Escalating Conflict and Crises

The below are recommendations made by participants to the 2024 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action regarding the meeting theme of “taking action to protect children in escalating conflict and crises”.

Advocacy and Funding:

- Advocate for more consistent and timely investment in child protection in humanitarian action. This includes investment in better data on the cost benefit of child protection interventions, and the outcomes for children that result from them; as well as evidence of the outcomes of integrated interventions.
- Advocate for donors to require/incentivise other sectors to integrate child protection.

Localisation, Child Protection Systems, and Social Service Workforce Strengthening:

- Strengthening capacity favours sustainability. Make the best use of local capacities to provide sustainable interventions in all settings, and reduce issues caused by lack of humanitarian access. This includes: Supporting existing social workers, by upgrading their skills and training them on models and principles of humanitarian action to avoid causing harm; Strengthening national, local, and community-level child protection systems and investing in preparedness for cyclical and emerging crises, in line with the CPMS; Supporting actors from national civil society organisations through flexible funds and decentralisation of power; Promoting the work of local actors including governments.

Community-level Child Protection, Family Strengthening, and Child Accountability Mechanisms:

- Listen to and understand the context and what already exists from the experiences of the communities themselves, especially children. This will help with creating adapted child accountability mechanisms and with efforts to change harmful social norms.
- Invest time in creating a shared local understanding of child protection priorities, and engaging local actors, including children and communities, in the development of projects so that they are built collaboratively.
- Work more with the families, as they are the first safety net for children.

Collaboration and Evidence for Preparedness, Prevention and Response:

- Coordination, and working to each other’s strengths, ensures needs are met and avoids duplication.
- The nexus approach of working that ensures collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors, is supportive of community-led approaches, and can facilitate accountability to children as it puts their needs at the centre. Working across the nexus requires investment in strong evidence and working with national systems.
- Identifying needs and existing resources helps to better budget for preparedness, and sustainable prevention and response. Participatory needs assessment aids accountability and quality.