

## STANDARD 28: CAMP MANAGEMENT AND CHILD PROTECTION

*The following should be read with this standard: Principles; Standard 7: Dangers and injuries; Standard 9: Sexual and gender-based violence; Standard 15: Group activities for child well-being; Standard 26: Water, sanitation and hygiene and child protection; and Standard 27: Shelter and settlement and child protection.*



The main goals of camp management (also called site management) are:

- To support equitable and dignified access of refugee, internally displaced and migrant populations living in temporary settlements (including camps, collective/evacuation centres and spontaneous settlements) to life-saving assistance and protection services;
- To preserve/uphold dignified living conditions for displaced populations as well as host communities; and
- To advocate for and support the identification of durable solutions.

Camp management actors accomplish this by collaborating with national and local authorities and partners to:

- Coordinate and monitor service delivery in temporary settlements;
- Establish governance and representation structures;
- Support community participation;
- Establish communication systems, including (but not limited to) feedback and reporting mechanisms;
- Maintain and/or upgrade site infrastructure, including mitigating protection risks;
- Track data on displaced populations;
- Monitor the potential impact of camps on host communities and promote activities that are beneficial for both groups;

- Build the capacity and awareness of service providers, camp committees and authorities; and
- Support the identification of and access to durable solutions.

Camp management and child protection actors must work together to conduct these activities in a protective, child-participatory manner that reduces the risks children face. This includes identifying children and populations at risk, assessing their protection needs and responding appropriately.



## STANDARD

Camp management activities address the needs and protection concerns of children affected by forced displacement.


### 28.1. KEY ACTIONS

#### KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT ACTORS TO IMPLEMENT TOGETHER

- 28.1.1. Identify common areas of concern to camp management and child protection and coordinate intervention strategies to address child protection risks throughout all phases of the response.
- 28.1.2. Develop information management tools to ensure that the collected data helps to identify child protection concerns. (See [Standard 5](#) for more information on data collection and storage.)
- 28.1.3. Engage in periodic joint risk and/or safety assessments to identify urgent child protection risks in displacement sites.
- 28.1.4. Implement agreed-upon integrated (child protection and camp management) activities that address any identified child protection risks.
- 28.1.5. Monitor and document integrated activities to:
  - Identify any impact on children’s safety and well-being;
  - Address any unintended negative consequences; and
  - Reproduce promising practices.

- 28.1.6. Collaborate with children and other stakeholders to design, establish, implement and monitor joint, child-friendly, accessible and confidential two-way communication systems, including feedback and reporting mechanisms. 
- 28.1.7. Confirm that all camp management actors and child protection staff are trained on and sign safeguarding policies and procedures. 
- 28.1.8. Include an adequate representation of children in community-based participation, decision-making and governance systems/structures related to camp management.
- 28.1.9. Jointly design and set up adequate, safe and confidential channels and/or referral pathways to ensure that sensitive information, including about incidents affecting children, are immediately reported to child protection actors.

## KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

- 28.1.10. Share the results of child protection assessments, consultations and feedback and reporting mechanisms (including generic trends and location-specific concerns) with camp management actors to inform their activities.
- 28.1.11. Provide recommendations and technical/implementation support for adjustments/adaptations that will provide all children with access to dedicated, essential services (such as distributions, water facilities, sites of education, etc.).
- 28.1.12. Work with camp management actors to agree upon and implement effective joint coordination and information-sharing mechanisms.
- 28.1.13. Support camp management staff to consult with children (of various ages, genders, disabilities and living situations), caregivers and community members on questions of safety, access to services and their representation and participation in camp management.
- 28.1.14. Collaborate with children to find solutions for their protection concerns related to camp management and share these findings with camp management actors.
- 28.1.15. Establish a system of communication between (a) child protection and camp management actors and (b) state and community-based child protection services to ensure children and their families have access to:
- Appropriate services; and
  - Confidential case management that aligns with national and international laws and the best interests of the child.
- 28.1.16. Train camp management staff on child protection principles, approaches and concerns so they can appropriately refer any disclosed or identified child protection cases. 

28.1.17. Support camp management actors to continuously and appropriately identify and refer children at risk.

## KEY ACTIONS FOR CAMP MANAGEMENT ACTORS

28.1.18. Work with child protection actors to mainstream child protection in camp management activities, including planning, implementation and monitoring of activities.

28.1.19. Coordinate the set-up of site infrastructures and essential services that integrate children's needs and views. Key aspects include:

- Accessibility;
- Safety and security for children of all ages, genders, disabilities and other relevant diversity factors; and
- Dedicated spaces for children, such as playgrounds, schools and safe spaces.

28.1.20. Ensure that registration systems are comprehensive, accessible and inclusive of all children, including:

- Children who are unaccompanied and separated;
- Children with disabilities;
- Children living in child-headed households; and
- Children living in households with multiple families.

28.1.21. Ensure that data collection systems disaggregate data by sex, age and disability, at a minimum.

28.1.22. Collaborate with child protection and protection actors to advocate for the provision of necessary civil documentation (birth/death certificates, identification cards, etc.) by relevant authorities.

28.1.23. Use regular safety audits and other approaches to (a) monitor children's access to service delivery and site infrastructures and (b) identify obstacles and safety risks that affect children.

28.1.24. Advocate for service delivery that is accessible to and appropriate for all children within the camp.

28.1.25. Coordinate with relevant sectors and partners to adjust programmes in ways that address children's identified risks.

28.1.26. Establish an effective communication system between camp management teams and key child protection actors to support referrals following an incident.

28.1.27. Advocate for gender balance in the camp management workforce to ensure a better inclusion of all children and their caregivers.

28.1.28. Partner with child protection actors to train camp management staff on child protection principles, approaches and concerns, including for situations where issues/incidents are disclosed to them so they can appropriately refer cases.

28.1.29. Take into account children’s perspectives, including those of children with disabilities, when identifying durable solutions.

## 28.2. MEASUREMENT



All indicators about children should be disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant diversity factors. The indicators below measure progress against the overall standard. Indicators and targets can be contextualised with the goal of meeting the indicative targets below. Additional related indicators are available *online*.

Indicators	Target	Notes
28.2.1. % of managed sites with a functioning referral pathway to report incidents and child protection concerns.	100%	'Incidents' refer specifically to events that result in harm to a child and are caused by a lack of safety and security measures in a camp (such as poor lighting or secluded water points/latrines that result in incidents of sexual violence).
28.2.2. % of managed sites with formalised structures for children’s participation.	100%	

## 28.3. GUIDANCE NOTES

### 28.3.1. CHILDREN’S PARTICIPATION

Participation is a pillar of camp management. Child protection and camp management actors need to collaborate to ensure children’s meaningful participation. Mechanisms may be set up to:

- Involve children in the design, monitoring and adjustment of programmes;
- Help children access information about the services available to them;
- Enable children to provide feedback;
- Provide accessible channels for children to express their views about humanitarian action;
- Include children in decision-making processes and site governance structures; and
- Ensure children are able to participate in social and recreational activities.

For example, children may act as focal points to ensure all children of various ages, genders, disabilities, and other relevant diversity factors (a) have meaningful representation in the camp management structures and (b) can receive information about actions that have been taken. Child protection actors can support and coach child focal points to strengthen children's participation.

### **28.3.2. COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD PROTECTION**

Humanitarian action should cooperate with and build upon existing community-based child protection mechanisms and structures. Building on existing systems and structures can increase effectiveness and support community ownership. (See [Standard 17.](#)) Child protection actors should ensure community-level child protection interventions develop and implement community-based care policies and best interests procedures. In this way, the humanitarian crisis can become an opportunity to strengthen existing positive structures.

### **28.3.3. EQUAL ACCESS**

All children have the right to access educational facilities, health care, psychosocial services, recreational opportunities and religious activities that meet their individual needs. Camp management actors can monitor the inclusion and accessibility of camp services by conducting regular spot-checks and analysing disaggregated data from in-country service providers. They may similarly ensure equal access to critical information.

### **28.3.4. SITE PLANNING AND SITE IMPROVEMENT**

It is critical for camp management and child protection actors to jointly consider how they will meet children's need for safe, accessible spaces to learn and play. This collaboration should begin at the earliest stages of site planning and continue throughout any site improvement processes. Proper planning prevents children's spaces from being located in dangerous locations (such as camp borders or long distances from children's homes) or excluded altogether due to lack of land.

### **28.3.5. SAFETY**

Camp management should monitor security concerns such as sexual and gender-based violence, abductions, physical attacks, child labour and other dangers (such as explosive ordnance, drowning or fire). Child protection actors can work with camp management to:

- Conduct accessibility and safety audits;
- Develop profiles of the specific child protection risks and needs; and
- Address identified risks and needs in security provisions.

Common risk mitigation activities include placing appropriate lighting in areas frequently used by women and children (both girls and boys), patrolling firewood collection routes, monitoring school routes, marking areas contaminated by explosive ordnance or fencing off areas with open water.

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## REFERENCES



Links to these and additional resources are available *online*.

- *Camp Management Toolkit*, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 2015.
- *Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for Older People and People with Disabilities*, CBM International, Bensheim, HelpAge International, London, Handicap International, Lyon, 2018.
- *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action*, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 2015.
- 'Shelter and Settlement', *The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response*, Sphere Association, 2018.
- *Site Planning: Guidance to Reduce the Risk of Gender-based Violence, Third Edition*, Global Shelter Cluster, 2018.
- O'Kane, Claire, *Guidelines for Children's Participation in Humanitarian Programming*, Save the Children, 2013.