

**The Impact of Funding Cuts on Children and their
Protection in Humanitarian Contexts:
An Analysis One Year On**

Infographics



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The Scale and Trajectory of Child Protection Funding Cuts

Widespread and Deepening Budget Reductions



Services effectively eliminated
in some locations

Not Temporary. Structural.

Funding reductions are now widespread and deepening over time, representing a contraction in child protection in humanitarian action.

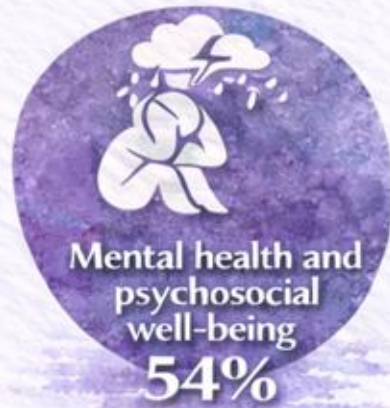
Cuts are dismantling critical child protection programmes precisely as needs rise.



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Rising Child Protection Violations Since January 2025

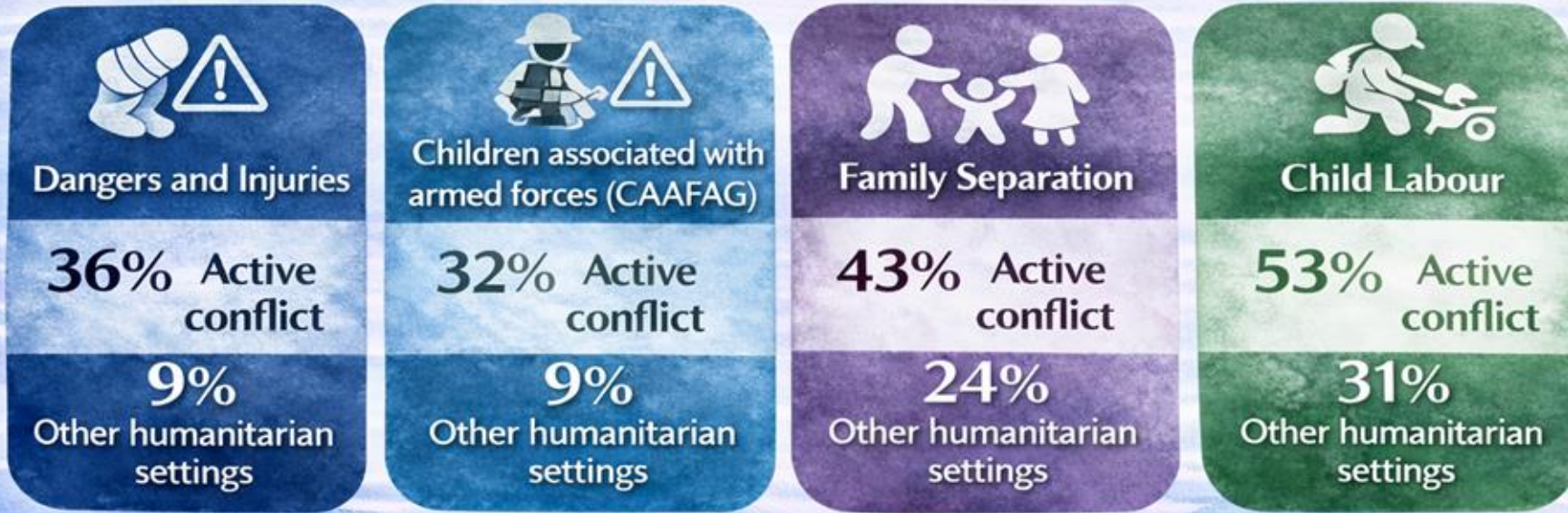
Percentage of respondents reporting increase in harms



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Child Protection Violations in Conflict Settings

53% of respondents in active conflict settings report **significant increases** in child protection violations since 2025, compared to 26% in other humanitarian settings.



% respondents reporting increase in child protection violations



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How Organisations Are Adapting to Reduced Child Protection Funding

Percentage of respondents reporting each adaptation strategy

Workforce



- Reduced staff presence or field monitoring visits **53%**
- Reduced quality assurance & safeguarding **15%**

Coverage



- Reduced geographic coverage **55%**
- Reduced number of children reached **55%**
- Prioritising only high-risk cases **38%**

Services



- Suspension or closure of activities **46%**
- Reduced frequency of services **31%**
- Integration into other sectors **38%**
- Shift to remote modalities **15%**

Result: Fewer children in fewer locations receiving fewer services



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Child Protection Prevention and Response Interventions Impacted

% respondents reporting impacts of child protection interventions



Shift away from Prevention

Cash and Voucher Assistance **63%**

Family Strengthening **50%**

Community-level child protection approaches **47%**

Child Protection Mainstreaming **39%**

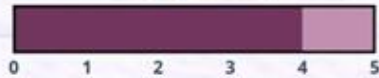


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Impact of Funding Cuts on Child Protection Staffing

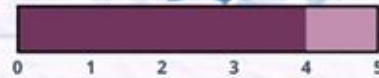
Average reported impact on child protection staffing capacity (scale 0-5)

Increased workload
for staff



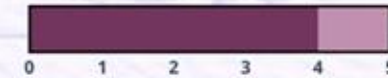
Recruitment freeze

Staff required to
cover multiple roles

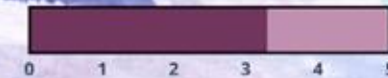
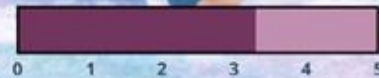
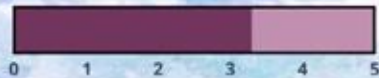


Increased reliance on
junior staff

Reduction in frontline
child protection staff



Reduction in technical
advisers



Impact of Funding Cuts on Community-Based Child Protection

Systemic underinvestment



Community-based child protection structures are:

- ! Facing budget cuts but growing operational reliance
- ! Taking on more responsibility without matching investment



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Impact of Funding Reductions on Child Protection Capacity

Technical gaps and operational impacts reported by respondents

Top technical gaps within remaining staff capacity



Impact on child protection capacity building



Key Recommendations



Stabilise and Protect Child Protection Financing

- ✓ Avoid disproportionate reductions to child protection funding
- ✓ Ensure prioritisation within resource allocation
- ✓ Provide longer-term, predictable funding cycles



Protect Quality and Technical Capacity as Core Protection Functions

- ✓ Fund supervision, safeguarding & technical advisory functions
- ✓ Invest in adaptive local technical support models
- ✓ Maintain quality assurance & accountability



Support National, Local, and Community-Based Actors

- ✓ Prioritise funding for local & community-based actors
- ✓ Protect community-based child protection approaches
- ✓ Sustain technical support & partnerships



Support Strategic Prioritisation and Adaptation of Services

- ✓ Undertake risk-based prioritisation processes
- ✓ Balance response services & preventive approaches
- ✓ Enhance coordination & information sharing

Coordinated action is required across donors, governments, implementing partners, and coordination bodies to protect critical child protection services



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