



THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



CPMS Video Series - Facilitator's Notes

Introduction to the 2019 Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS) Handbook

Background: This document was created to give viewers an overview of the latest CPMS 2019 edition handbook. These standards are intended for all humanitarian actors, particularly those who work in child protection or directly with children, families and communities. This includes community groups, non-governmental organisations, government personnel, policy makers, international organisations, donors, coordinators, human resources staff and those working on advocacy, media or communications. This may also be applicable to those working in the justice system, to border and immigration authorities and to security personnel.

First launched in 2012, the CPMS have been used by over 74,000 humanitarian actors in more than 50 countries. They have contributed significantly to the professionalization and improvement in quality and accountability in child protection programming and across all sectors of humanitarian response. With the latest evidence, research, and on-the-ground experience of child protection workers, affected caregivers and children themselves, CPMS is a one-stop resource on the most effective approaches to protect children in humanitarian settings. This new edition strengthens the relevance of the CPMS, through greater emphasis on partnerships with local actors, accountability to children, prevention of child protection harms, and the inclusion of all children, particularly girls and children with disabilities.

The CPMS is divided into four pillars:

- 1) Standards to ensure a quality child protection response
- 2) Standards on child protection risks
- 3) Standards to develop adequate strategies, and
- 4) Standards to work across sectors.

Each pillar has a detailed introduction explaining the main approaches and how the different pillars complement each other to deliver more holistic programming for children and families.

Each standard includes:

- Key actions for preparedness, prevention and response;
- Guidance notes on key issues to reflect in programming;
- Realistic and measurable indicators for humanitarian contexts;
- Key resources available for further guidance; and
- List of linked standards to promote holistic programming for children.

Discussion Points:

Overall message: The Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, or CPMS, sets out common principles and critical actions to keep children safe from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence – and to support their well-being holistically. It can be applied across a wide range of contexts, from refugee crises and mixed migration settings to infectious disease outbreaks, such as COVID-19.

The *CPMS* have been developed to support child protection work in humanitarian settings by:

- Establishing common principles between those working in child protection;
- Strengthening coordination between humanitarian actors;
- Improving the quality of child protection programming and its impact on children;
- Improving the accountability of child protection programming;
- Defining the professional field of child protection in humanitarian action;
- Providing a synthesis of good practice and learning to date; and
- Strengthening advocacy and communication on child protection risks, needs and responses.

Message 1: Pillar 1: “Standards to ensure a quality child protection response” provide a child-protection-sensitive approach to key programming components, ranging from coordination to information management. These standards provide a strong focus on inclusive child participation and accountability to children, including their protection from sexual abuse by humanitarian workers.

1.1 Prepare/Respond: Are we clear on the key programming components of CPMS Pillar 1? How can we implement these standards? How can we ensure quality within these areas to prepare and respond to protect children?

1.2 Respond: Why is effective coordination important in humanitarian action? What groups of actors should we target to improve standards?

Things to stress:

- The six standards of Pillar 1 provide a child-protection-sensitive approach to key programming components. Each standard has a strong focus on accountability to children, including safeguarding, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers, and inclusive child participation.
- Poor coordination reduces the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian responses and may result in harm. The coordination system has the same objectives in each situation, but its structure changes based on:
 - The magnitude and impact of the humanitarian crisis;
 - The type of humanitarian crisis (armed conflict, natural disaster, etc.);
 - The characteristics of the affected populations; and
 - The government’s ability to address protection concerns.
- The key actions in this standard target two groups of actors:
 - Agencies or government departments that lead child protection coordination; and
 - Members of coordination groups.

Message 2: Pillar 2: “Standards on Child Protection Risks” provides actions to prevent, mitigate, and respond to child protection risks by increasing resilience of the child, family, community and society and working to remove or reduce the risk itself.

2.1 **Prepare:** Are we clear about what the child protection risks standards are? How can we work to remove or reduce the risks children face?

2.2 **Prevent:** What violations of children’s right to protection are occurring in our current setting?

Things to stress:

- The seven inter-linked standards of Pillar 2 provide actions to increase the resilience of the child, their family and community, by working to remove or reduce the risks children face.
- Humanitarian situations pose new or greater risks to the well-being of affected children as children become more vulnerable to violence, exploitation and other threats.
- We have a collective or shared responsibility to protect children and their families.

Message 3: Pillar 3: “Standards to Develop Adequate Strategies is structured around the socio-ecological model and promotes child protection systems thinking.” It demonstrates how factors at different levels influence children’s development and well-being.

3.1 **Prepare:** How can we use the socio-ecological model to promote child protection systems thinking?

3.2 **Respond:** What are the factors at different levels that influence a child's development and well-being?

Things to stress:

- The seven standards of Pillar 3 are built on the socio-ecological approach, which demonstrates how actions at the child, family, community and society level can systematically strengthen the protection and well-being of children.
- The socio-ecological model focuses on four levels of child protection: socio-cultural norms, society, community, and family to provide a concrete framework that supports systems thinking for child protection programming.

Message 4: Pillar 4: “Standards to Work Across Sectors” focuses on integrated approaches and joint programming as well as child protection mainstreaming. These standards reflect the negative impacts of sectoral programming that is blind to child protection risks, and recognition of the Centrality of Protection across all sectors in humanitarian action.

4.1 **Prepare:** Are we clear about what the ‘Centrality of Protection’ is?

4.2 **Prevent:** What protection risks are children prone to?

4.3 **Prepare:** What are the challenges to making child well-being part of our daily planning and actions?

Things to stress:

- The eight standards of Pillar 4 provide minimum actions for joint programming across sectors in humanitarian settings.
- The ‘Centrality of Protection` recognises that protection is the ultimate purpose and intended outcome of humanitarian action. Protection must be integrated in all sectoral preparedness and response actions.
- When sectoral programming is blind to child protection risks, it can expose children and their families to greater violence, abuse and exploitation [Do no harm principle].
- An integrated approach involves deliberately designing and implementing programmes with child protection and other sectors to prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children.