



CPMS Video Series - Facilitator's Notes

Pillar 4 - Working Across Sectors

Background: This document aims to prompt discussion among child protection staff and other humanitarian actors who have watched the video on Pillar 4 (working across sectors) and want to learn more about the topic. It encourages viewers to reflect collectively on how the standard is or could be implemented in their context. It could be used as part of a coordination meeting, briefing session, orientation or training workshop.

Discussion Points:

Overall message: Working across sectors to promote children's protection is essential to ensure positive impacts on the well-being of children and their families.

Message 1: Each sector has the responsibility to keep children safe and support their well-being in its programming. Integrated, multi-sectoral programming is key to improving the well-being of children and their families.

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

Things to stress:

- No single sector has the knowledge, skills and resources to fully prevent protection risks to children, respond to their protection needs and promote their rights and well-being.
- 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.

Message 2: 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.

2.1 **Prepare:** Are we clear about what protection is?

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

Things to stress:

- We have a collective or shared responsibility to protect children and their families.
- Humanitarian situations pose new or greater risks to the well-being of affected children.

Message 3: Working across sectors helps to ensure children receive holistic services in humanitarian responses.

3.1 **Prepare:** Why is this important? Who in our setting needs to hear this message? Who do they listen to?

3.2 **Respond:** Can you share an example of when it happened or the consequences of it not having happened?

3.3 **Prepare:** What indication do we have that donors support this way of working?

3.4 **Respond:** What should our next steps be?

Things to stress:

- Working across sectors can be full integration of programmes, joint programming or mainstreaming depending on the context and issues at hand.
- Working across sectors can reduce suffering and exposure to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, as well as make the work of each sector more effective.

Message 4: Consider and act on children's protection needs from the first days of a crisis and in all aspects of response planning and programme design.

4.1 **Respond:** What are some challenges to making this happen?

Things to stress:

- Camp coordination and protection actors can meet to design the layout of the camp / settlement to make sure children are able to influence planning, set-up, and management of the space in a way that is safer for them.
- Ensure that when food, CVA or other items are distributed, the process is safe and accessible. Design sanitation facilities in a way that girls and boys can walk to and safely use them during the day and night. Etc.

Message 5: Use the strengths and resources of each sector to complement each other and work together to develop an understanding of the opportunities and challenges to the protection and wellbeing of children.

5.1 **Respond:** What are the current opportunities to improve the protection and well-being of children here?

5.2 **Prepare:** What resources can child protection actors contribute to the positive outcomes for children that other sectors are seeking?

5.3 **Prepare:** What strengths or resources can your sector provide?

5.4 **Respond:** How do we map and coordinate these?

Things to stress:

- Map services and capacities, so we do not overlap or duplicate.
- Support staff who work directly with children:
 - Train community health workers to support children experiencing neglect and to provide psychological first aid.
 - Support teachers to adopt approaches that promote gender equality, safety of girls, inclusion, children with disabilities or with diverse gender and sexual orientations.
- Work across sectors to support community leaders and groups to help families who struggle.
- Collaborate with and advocate for services from other sectors that reduce identified risk factors for harm to children and strengthen protective factors to prevent negative outcomes.

Message 6: Collaborating in the field in the course of daily work and providing on-the-job coaching are essential for successful partnership between sectors

6.1 Prevent: What are the current, practical obstacles to us collaborating to better protect children? How can they be overcome?

Things to stress:

- Informal discussions help us help each other. While checklists are useful, working together on the ground is the best way to ensure child protection concepts are made concrete and operational. We need to understand and respect each other's perspectives and work jointly to achieve positive outcomes.