

# TOOL



**THE ALLIANCE**  
FOR CHILD PROTECTION  
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## Preventing Child Labour Risk Factors Related to Humanitarian Action

### SAMPLE RISK ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS:

- Do vulnerable groups targeted by the intervention include working children and their families?
- Do children already work in the areas where the intervention hopes to have an effect, e.g. geographical, trade, thematic or subject areas?
  - Are children who are under the minimum working age currently working?
  - Are children who are over the minimum working age currently working?
  - Is the work harmful for children (is it physically dangerous, tiring, abusive, exploitative, and so on)?
- Will our intervention influence the labour market and the type of work children do within the labour market? Are children likely to substitute for adult labour?
- Will our intervention influence the number of hours that children will work (at home, in the community, in family businesses or agriculture)?
- Are there new types of work in the labour market that children may be drawn into?
- Will our intervention influence children's attendance at formal/informal school, TVET or higher education?
- Will our intervention influence children's physical or emotional wellbeing, e.g. likelihood of work-related injuries or diseases, or their psychosocial wellbeing?
- Do we want to involve children who are above the minimum working age in our project? Do we have appropriate safeguards in place?
- Will the intervention result in any incentives for children or their families to drop out of school or start working below the legal age for work?
- What are the risks of child labour associated with distributing in-kind items or cash and voucher assistance (CVA)?

## SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

This is a sample form that can be used to assess potential safeguarding risks related to the involvement of children in humanitarian programme activities.

LIKELIHOOD		Impact		
		L	M	H
	H-3	M	H	H
	M-2	L	M	H
	L-1	L	L	M

Step 1: Who is at risk? Think about the factors which put children at risk	Step 2: What are the risks?	Step 3: What are the control measures currently in place and how effective are they?	Step 4: Risk calculation			Step 5: What are the agreed actions to mitigate the risk?	By whom?	By when?
			Likelihood	Impact	Risk level			
Example: Adolescents aged 15 to 17 years who participate in a youth livelihoods programme	Example: Adolescents might engage in hazardous work that is not appropriate for their age	Example: The livelihoods programme offers specific types of work for adolescents aged 15 to 17 with supervisors who are trained to work with young workers	Low	High	Medium	Example: Conduct regular monitoring of project activities to ensure adolescents aged 15 to 17 are engaged in decent work	Example: Project staff together with adolescents and supervisors	Example: Weekly
2.								
3.								
4.								

## SECTOR-SPECIFIC CHILD LABOUR RISKS AND POTENTIAL PREVENTION AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Note that this is not an exhaustive list of child labour risks and prevention/mitigation measures. Context-specific safeguarding risks should always be assessed in the local context and relevant prevention/mitigation measures identified in consultation with programme participants and other key stakeholders.

Sector	Potential child labour risks	Prevention and mitigation measures
<b>All sectors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's participation in education programmes leads to increased workload at home.</li> <li>• Aid agencies and/or partners, contractors or supply chains use child labour.</li> <li>• Aid workers perpetrate child labour such as domestic child labour, commercial sexual exploitation and other WFCL.</li> <li>• Lack of confidential management of personal data enables identification of individual children and families, leaving them vulnerable for trafficking, recruitment or other WFCL.</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of children's rights to humanitarian assistance, including right to education, labour rights and right to protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Undertake a risk assessment to identify potential safeguarding risks for participating children and put in place measures to prevent or mitigate child labour and other protection risks for children.</li> <li>○ Train staff on safeguarding and PSEAH measures.</li> <li>○ Put in place agreements with implementing partners, contractors, employers and other partners, that include a safeguarding policy and code of conduct, to prevent child labour in operations and supply chains.</li> <li>○ Inform children, adolescents and adults on safeguarding procedures, codes of conduct and PSEAH procedures.</li> <li>○ Put in place safe and confidential (inter-agency) information management systems, data-sharing and data protection protocols.</li> <li>○ Prioritise age-appropriate, inclusive information provision and communication with affected communities on children's rights, child labour risks, labour rights and available services.</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in informal or non-formal education activities hamper children's access to formal education.</li> <li>• Participation of children in or at risk of child labour in education may lead to higher workload for other children in the same household e.g. caregiving responsibilities, domestic chores or economic activities.</li> <li>• Participation of children in TVET programmes below the legal age for that type of training or work.</li> <li>• Lack of childcare options for adolescent mothers and fathers prohibits them from accessing education, leaving them more vulnerable to child labour.</li> <li>• Children with large educational gaps and those in child labour are not eligible for education programmes and become more vulnerable to WFCL.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consult with children and families on ways in which children can access education without negative consequences.</li> <li>○ Prioritise opportunities for children to access, attend and complete formal education or certified learning opportunities.</li> <li>○ Conduct age verification during registration and implementation of TVET programmes.</li> <li>○ Conduct regular monitoring during TVET programmes to prevent (hazardous) child labour.</li> <li>○ Offer ECD, childcare or other caregiver support for dependent household members while adolescents participate in education programmes.</li> <li>○ Promote flexible and adapted education programmes for children with large gaps and children who are working, in particular those in child labour/WFCL.</li> <li>○ Support vulnerable families with CVA and other FSL and economic-strengthening interventions to enable continued access to education.</li> <li>○ Put in place inter-agency SOPs for child labour identification and referrals.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Food security and livelihoods (FSL)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSL programmes for adults increase domestic workload or economic activity for children in the household.</li> <li>• FSL inputs provided to families, e.g. machinery, technology or equipment, are dangerous for children who may end up working with heavy machinery or using pesticides without adequate training or protection.</li> <li>• FSL interventions lead to high demand for more adult labour than can be supplied, which is a potential pull factor for child labour to fill the gaps.</li> <li>• FSL programmes involve or rely on supply chains with child labour, e.g. construction or agriculture.</li> <li>• Children <b>below</b> the legal age for work participate in (cash for) work offered or created by FSL programmes (child labour).</li> <li>• Children <b>above</b> the legal age for work participate in (cash for) work resulting from or created by FSL programmes that is not appropriate for their age (WFCL) – e.g. in distributions, food collection or processing.</li> <li>• FSL programmes involve small and medium-size enterprises or employers who use child labour.</li> <li>• Employers provide misinformation or use threats to force at-risk children to engage in child labour/WFCL.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Include households at risk of child labour in FSL targeting criteria.</li> <li>○ Assess how children are involved in FSL and how this interferes with their school and free time.</li> <li>○ Put in place inter-agency SOPs for child labour identification and referrals.</li> <li>○ Agree with households that participate in FSL programmes how negative impacts on children can be prevented and provide support such as ECD or childcare services to parents/caregivers to prevent children from taking over adult responsibilities.</li> <li>○ Provide FSL actors with guidance on what is considered age-appropriate work for children and what is child labour, in particular hazardous work, in line with the legal framework.</li> <li>○ Conduct awareness-raising on age-appropriate work for children and decent work for caregivers.</li> <li>○ Develop agreements, with safeguarding policy and code of conduct, with contractors, employers and other implementing partners to ensure their operations and supply chains are free from child labour.</li> <li>○ Conduct age verification during registration and programme implementation.</li> <li>○ Monitor child labour risks in activities implemented by partners, (sub-) contractors, employers and other actors in the supply chain.</li> <li>○ Provide outreach to at-risk groups including refugee, internally displaced and migrant populations as well as stateless groups and host communities to provide information about their rights and available services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate or inappropriate planning, implementation and monitoring of WASH programmes can lead to child labour, such as water collection in distant locations which prevent children from attending school; child labour in maintenance or cleaning of WASH facilities; washing clothes; or water collection for agricultural purposes.</li> <li>• Children <b>below</b> the legal age for work participate in (cash for) work offered or created by WASH programmes (child labour).</li> <li>• Children <b>above</b> the legal age for work participate in (cash for) work offered or created by WASH programmes that is not appropriate for their age (WFCL).</li> <li>• Employment of children under the working age or in non-age-appropriate work with contractors or sub-contractors who provide WASH services. Children involved in work that is heavy/harmful such as water trucking, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assess how children are involved in WASH activities at home and potential child labour risks.</li> <li>○ Monitor how children are involved in WASH provision during and after interventions to identify potential child labour risks.</li> <li>○ Provide smaller water containers for children, alongside awareness activities with parents, to ensure children are not carrying heavy water loads.</li> <li>○ Prioritise water provision for humans and agriculture closer to where children live and work to prevent child labour.</li> <li>○ Develop agreements, with safeguarding policy and code of conduct, with contractors, employers and other implementing partners to ensure their operations and supply chains are free from child labour.</li> <li>○ Provide safe opportunities for children above the minimum age for work to engage in decent training and work opportunities related to WASH.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Camp Coordination &amp; Camp Management (CCCM), Shelter and Logistics</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children <b>below</b> the legal age for work participate in (cash for) work offered or created by humanitarian actors such as involvement in distributions, shelter work or logistics supply chains (child labour).</li> <li>• Children <b>above</b> the legal age for work participate in (cash for) work offered or created by humanitarian actors that is not appropriate for their age (WFCL).</li> <li>• Inadequate or inappropriate planning, provision, location and management of services which contributes to greater numbers of children involved in types of child labour associated with camp management and shelter.</li> <li>• Child labour in return for safe shelter and/or land for them (and their families) to live on (forced or bonded labour).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assess how children within and outside camps are involved in camp-based work such as distributions, building shelters, and work in supply chains, and how this interferes with their school and free time.</li> <li>○ Put in place inter-agency SOPs for child labour identification and referrals.</li> <li>○ Monitor distribution sites and camp sites to identify child labour (e.g. in distributions, transport, cleaning, working in local shops or supply chains).</li> <li>○ Provide CCCM, shelter and logistics actors with guidance on what is considered age-appropriate work for children and what is child labour.</li> <li>○ Conduct awareness-raising on age-appropriate work for children and decent work for caregivers.</li> <li>○ Develop agreements, with safeguarding policy and code of conduct, with contractors, employers and other implementing partners to ensure their operations and supply chains are free from child labour.</li> <li>○ Conduct age verification during registration and implementation.</li> <li>○ Monitor child labour risks in activities implemented by partners, (sub-) contractors, employers and other actors in the supply chain.</li> <li>○ Provide outreach to at-risk groups to provide information about their rights and available services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protection (Child protection and GBV)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The timing, location, type and/or delivery of child protection and GBV services excludes working children or children in child labour/ WFCL.</li> <li>• CP and GBV service providers or referral partners perpetuate stigma and discrimination faced by survivors of SGBV and WFCL.</li> <li>• Activities or services take place during school hours and negatively affect school attendance or cause dropout, which are risk factors for child labour.</li> <li>• Protection activities lead to child labour, for example.</li> <li>• Separated and unaccompanied children are placed in foster families that are income-poor or for other reasons force children into child labour/WFCL.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Design programme activities so that they do not interfere with school hours.</li> <li>○ Develop referral pathways and ensure referral partners provide survivor-centred, safe and confidential services to children in child labour/ WFCL, including survivors of SGBV.</li> <li>○ Monitor children in child labour to ensure that the protection services they receive are working in their best interest and do not place them at further risk.</li> <li>○ Screen and monitor foster families and other alternative care arrangements, and address identified child labour risks as a matter of urgency.</li> <li>○ Ensure that targeting of children in child labour/ WFCL regarding participation in protection programmes is inclusive and prevents stigma and discrimination.</li> <li>○ Provide flexible and adapted protection services for children who are working, particularly those in child labour/WFCL.</li> </ul>