

PARTICIPANT RESOURCE

You are working for the Help Desk of the CP AoR (Child Protection Area of Responsibility) and you have received the following email from an emergency child protection staff working in country X, seeking advice.

Dear Help Desk,

My name is Josef and I am working in country X as a Child Protection Coordinator for a national NGO. I would like to seek your advice as we are looking into including primary prevention approaches into our programme design. A conflict has been ongoing in Country X for many years, and there is a high level of economic hardship among the population, especially in rural areas. While the level of fighting is generally quite low in major towns, armed groups are present in several rural areas of the country. While these groups have been present for many years, and often have close ties to communities, in recent months the groups have been becoming more active and sporadic fighting has been breaking out. Adolescent boys in particular are perceived by themselves and others within the community as having a duty to protect their families and community, some of them join armed groups on 'voluntary' basis and they are tasked with protecting their home areas. In these rural areas of the country, it is common for children to live with extended family if their parents have been killed in the fighting, or moved to urban areas to pursue economic opportunities. There are basic services, which are mainly located in the larger towns. Numbers of children, notably girls, attending secondary school are decreasing and many schools are being damaged in clashes or occupied by armed groups. At present, the government announced it is working on a social protection scheme to support the most marginalized people. A few years ago the parliament had approved a law that protects children from service with the police, prison or military forces and states that no child shall be used or recruited to engage in any military or paramilitary activities, whether armed or un-armed. This law also explicitly lays out penalties for recruitment or use of a child in military activities. However no implementation measures have been put in place. There are a number of development actors operational in the area and some other humanitarian actors recently arrived and are starting to set-up support programmes. Could you please advise?

Thank you very much in advance,

Best regards, Josef

GROUP WORK

Work with your group and answer the following questions to help preparing a response to Josef's inquiry and write the answers on a flip chart (30 minutes):

1. What could be the root causes and the risk factors relating to family separation?
2. What are the protective factors in relation to preserving family unity?
3. What type of primary prevention measures would you suggest to address the root causes?