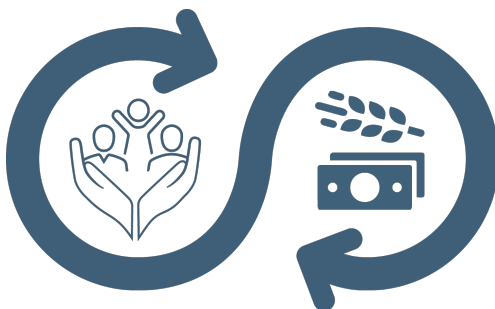


STANDARD 22: LIVELIHOODS AND CHILD PROTECTION



The following should be read with this standard: *Principles; Standard 21: Food security and child protection; and Standard 25: Nutrition and child protection.*



A 'livelihood' is one part of economic recovery that looks at the capabilities, assets, opportunities and activities required for individuals, families and communities to be able to make a living (to earn enough income to meet their basic and essential needs). Humanitarian crises often negatively impact livelihoods by making pre-existing difficulties such as lack of employment, poor infrastructure and lack of quality education worse.

When a family's capacity to provide adequate food, shelter, education and care is reduced, children can be at risk of all forms of child protection concerns. Economic recovery and livelihoods interventions can have a significant protective impact on children when they are:

- Well-planned;
- Targeted appropriately at caregivers and older children of working age;
- Implemented according to child protection principles; and
- Based on the *Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS)*.



STANDARD

Caregivers and working-age children have access to adequate support to strengthen their livelihoods.



Child protection must be integrated into livelihoods programme activities to ensure that they do not increase risks and cause harm to children.

22.1. KEY ACTIONS

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND LIVELIHOODS ACTORS TO IMPLEMENT TOGETHER

- 22.1.1. Adapt existing livelihoods and child protection assessment and monitoring tools, methodologies and indicators for joint identification, analysis, monitoring of and response to households at risk of livelihood insecurity and/or child protection concerns:
 - Collect baseline data on children's and families' livelihoods and protection status;
 - Determine whether child protection concerns are improving or worsening the livelihoods situation;
 - Include children's own perceptions in all monitoring and assessments; and
 - Disaggregate data by gender, age and disability, at a minimum.
- 22.1.2. Agree upon the most effective joint mechanism for sharing information generated by assessments, evaluations and analysis.
- 22.1.3. Identify common areas of concern to livelihoods and child protection through consultation with communities, including children.
- 22.1.4. Establish joint prioritisation criteria for targeting children and households at risk.
- 22.1.5. Implement response interventions for households at risk of livelihood insecurity and/or child protection concerns throughout all phases of the programme cycle.
- 22.1.6. Coordinate interventions throughout all phases of the programme cycle.
- 22.1.7. Ensure adequate representation of children in decision-making processes, community-based participation structures and site governance systems related to livelihoods. (See [Principles](#).)
- 22.1.8. Develop and implement joint data protection protocols and child-friendly, multisectoral, confidential child protection referral mechanisms for children (and their families) who have experienced or are at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation or violence.
- 22.1.9. Train livelihoods staff on child protection concerns, principles and approaches so they can safely, correctly and efficiently refer disclosed or identified sexual and gender-based violence and child protection cases.
- 22.1.10. Document and address any unintended negative consequences and reproduce promising practices in relation to the impact of:
 - Livelihoods interventions on children's safety and well-being; and
 - Child protection interventions on livelihoods activities.



- 22.1.11. Include child-friendly child protection messages in livelihoods interventions.
- 22.1.12. Collaborate with children and other stakeholders to design, establish, implement and monitor joint, child-friendly, accessible and confidential feedback and reporting mechanisms for child protection concerns as part of *Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)*. 
- 22.1.13. Ensure connections between livelihoods and child protection interventions in strategic, preparedness and contingency planning; response evaluations; early recovery; and resource allocation.
- 22.1.14. Review at regular intervals the connections and collaboration between child protection and livelihoods.
- 22.1.15. Coordinate with livelihoods actors and community members to include child protection in the preparedness, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of livelihoods programmes and interventions that:
- Are safe, inclusive, protective and accessible to all children, including the most at risk;
 - Address children's different genders, ages, disabilities, developmental stages, vulnerabilities and family settings;
 - Do not interfere with school attendance; and
 - Collaborate with existing (or provide new) childcare resources so primary caregivers can participate without exposing children to risk.
- 22.1.16. Coordinate the development and regular assessment of safe, child-friendly, inclusive and accessible facilities, mechanisms and essential services, including dedicated spaces for children's education and recreation.
- 22.1.17. Ensure that all livelihoods and child protection staff are trained on and sign safeguarding policies and procedures. 

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

- 22.1.18. Include information on the livelihoods support available to children, caregivers and families in child protection messaging.
- 22.1.19. Provide referrals to economic recovery, cash and voucher assistance and livelihoods support services in child protection activities that:
- Protect the personal data of referred households; and
 - Maintain the confidentiality of children and families.
- 22.1.20. Identify strengths and weaknesses of existing social protection services and mitigate any gaps, bottlenecks or barriers to children's access.

- 22.1.21. Include child protection staff in livelihoods teams (for example as a focal point or child-friendly help desk) when:
- Identifying households and beneficiaries who are at risk;
 - Carrying out distributions; and
 - Monitoring response activities.

KEY ACTIONS FOR LIVELIHOODS ACTORS

- 22.1.22. Include child protection and children's participation in all phases of the livelihoods programme cycle:
- Consider the impact of livelihoods interventions on childcare and school attendance;
 - Avoid potentially exploitative or unsafe working conditions for older children and caregivers; and
 - Integrate the gender-, age- and disability-related needs of working-age children into all aspects of programming.
- 22.1.23. Conduct a risk analysis during programme design that:
- Identifies requirements for recipients of livelihoods services, such as literacy or identification;
 - Assesses the best timing for the intervention; and
 - Determines the needs of specific groups, such as those caring for young children.
- 22.1.24. Ensure assistance reaches all members of the affected population by:
- Using assessments to identify children and families who may have difficulty accessing livelihood support. Barriers to accessing livelihoods may include:
 - Safety risks;
 - Unequal access to livelihood opportunities; and
 - Discrimination based on gender, disability, household composition, etc.
 - Collaborating with child protection actors to identify and implement strategies to overcome barriers.
 - Registering all adult women as the main recipients of assistance in contexts where polygamy is practiced to avoid excluding subsequent wives and their children.
- 22.1.25. Involve all subgroups of the affected population in designing, implementing and monitoring livelihoods interventions.
- 22.1.26. Provide beneficiary cards to child heads of households and children who are unaccompanied or separated so they can access assistance in their own names. Work with child protection actors to (a) discourage families from intentionally separating to access

additional benefits and (b) avoid making children targets of theft or exploitation.

- 22.1.27. Collaborate with child protection, protection and cash and voucher assistance or market-based programming actors (such as the Cash Working Group) to:
- Conduct relevant institutional mapping;
 - Conduct labour, market and value chain analyses; and
 - Identify profitable, accessible and desirable livelihood activities that minimise the risks of child labour, exploitation, poor quality childcare and irregular school attendance.
- 22.1.28. Ensure livelihoods interventions:
- Follow all binding national and international labour laws and applicable standards;
 - Are accessible and inclusive;
 - Consider their impact on childcare and school attendance; and
 - Positively impact children's overall well-being.
- 22.1.29. Collaborate with child protection and education actors to implement joint feedback and reporting mechanisms for referring children and households at risk to appropriate livelihoods, educational and/or vocational programmes.
- 22.1.30. Collaborate with child protection and education actors to provide complementary programming activities, such as:
- Support to childcare facilities or community childcare mechanisms so that caregivers may engage in livelihoods interventions;
 - Life skills, literacy and numeracy training for adolescents;
 - Apprenticeship opportunities for adolescents; and
 - Support and opportunities for improving saving practices and household resource management.



22.2. MEASUREMENT



All indicators about children should be disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant diversity factors. The indicators below measure progress against the overall standard. Indicators and targets can be contextualised with the goal of meeting the indicative targets below. Additional related indicators are available *online*.

Indicator	Target	Notes
22.2.1. % of children living in child-headed households or caregivers of children living in vulnerable situations surveyed who report earning a stable income after receiving livelihoods support.	90%	Define what constitutes 'vulnerable' in context. It may include children with elderly or ill caregivers or children released from armed forces or armed groups. A timeframe can be added to monitor this indicator (such as over 3, 6 and 12 months).
22.2.2. % of households referred for livelihoods support that report a reduction in the use of risky or harmful coping mechanisms or an improved Reduced Coping Strategy Index (RCSI) score.	90%	The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) and Reduced Coping Strategy Index are food security measurement tools of household food insecurity. The score can be interpreted as the likelihood that the household will make choices that are harmful to children when trying to meet their food needs. The use of the CSI for child protection purposes should be carried out jointly with the Food Security sector colleagues as part of an integrated approach and joint analysis between both sectors. For more information on the CSI please visit: https://resources.vam.wfp.org/node/6 for a tutorial.

22.3. GUIDANCE NOTES

22.3.1. CHILDREN AT RISK

Child protection and economic recovery and livelihoods workers should coordinate efforts to identify children at risk. See the *CPMS* Introduction for details on **children at risk**. When conducting assessments and monitoring, it is important to remember that the 'household' may not be a relevant unit of measurement for all children.

Become familiar with contextualised, gendered and/or discriminatory views of work that increase certain groups' risks of:

- Economic dependence on others;
- Exclusion from formal jobs;
- Exploitative, informal work environments; and/or
- Abusive relationships.



Be aware of traditional stereotypes around appropriate work for genders or groups. Women, **adolescent** girls and other at-risk groups often face obstacles related to gender or cultural norms. These norms not only increase economic dependence on others but can also increase their vulnerability to violence. In the absence of formal jobs, children at risk may:

- Find work in the informal economy;
- Enter exploitative work environments;
- Become dependent on and trapped in abusive relationships; or
- Experience sexual exploitation.

22.3.2. FOCAL POINTS

To support joint identification and mitigation of child protection risks, consider:

- Establishing child protection focal points within livelihoods teams;
- Coordinating with colleagues in child protection; and/or
- Collaborating with existing community/village child protection committees, where appropriate.

Focal points can support collaboration, encourage agreement on key decisions and processes, refer child protection concerns and ensure livelihoods interventions are child-friendly, accessible and safe.

22.3.3. MANAGING HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY DUTIES

Consult with disaggregated groups from the affected population regularly about:

- Their preferences and priorities for income generation, cash-for-work opportunities and other household needs;
- Individuals' workloads; and
- Any household tensions related to changes in traditional gender roles.

22.3.4. FEEDBACK AND REPORTING MECHANISMS

Confidential, child-friendly, accessible and harmonised *Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)* feedback and reporting mechanisms should be set up in collaboration with the communities to receive feedback and investigate allegations when required. The number and types of feedback that are received should be reviewed regularly by senior staff. Reports should lead to immediate responses and investigations, as delays may lead to further violations, including the repeated abuse, exploitation or intimidation of survivors.



22.3.5. CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

Multipurpose cash or cash to meet basic needs has been shown to, in certain circumstances, increase families' and children's abilities to meet their basic needs. When combined with other services, they may help reduce negative coping mechanisms such as [child labour](#) or child marriage. The impact of multipurpose cash on child protection outcomes should be closely monitored.



REFERENCES

Links to these and additional resources are available *online*.

- *The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response*, Sphere Association, 2018.
- *Minimum Economic Recovery Standards: Third Edition*, The SEEP Network, 2017.
- 'Convention on the Rights of the Child', United Nations General Assembly, 1989.
- *FAO Guidance Note: Child Labour in Agriculture in Protracted Crises, Fragile and Humanitarian Contexts*, FAO, 2017.
- *Child Safeguarding in Cash Transfer Programming: A Practical Tool*, The Cash Learning Partnership, Save the Children, Women's Refugee Commission, 2012. [Update Pending]
- *Cash Based Assistance: Programme Quality Toolbox*, The Cash Learning Partnership (CALP), 2018.
- *Toolkit for Optimizing Cash-based Interventions for Protection from Gender-based Violence: Mainstreaming GBV Considerations in Cash-based Initiatives and Utilizing Cash in GBV Response*, Women's Refugee Commission, 2018.
- 'Keeping Children Safe'. [Website]
- 'Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)'. [Website]
- *Minimum Standard for Market Analysis (MISMA)*, Humanitarian Standards Partnership and The Cash Learning Partnership (CALP), 2018.