THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

WORKING ACROSS SECTORS

Indicators to measure cross-sectoral contributions to children's protection and well-being

Full Indicator Package

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action ("The Alliance") is a global network of agencies and practitioners aiming to protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence in humanitarian settings. The Alliance's 2021-2025 Strategy[1] advocates for prioritising the protection and well-being of children through cross-sectoral collaboration. The multi-faceted nature of child protection risks, and the adversity that children and their families can face as a result, often requires multi-sector approaches and cross-sectoral collaboration to prevent risks, respond to needs, strengthen protective factors, and contribute to well-being. Child protection alone cannot achieve this; neither can any other individual sector.

The whole humanitarian system has a role to play in realising children's rights, including their right to protection. Greater collaboration, action, and investment are needed to ensure all humanitarian interventions are safe, accessible, and child protection sensitive. When protecting children is a central and common objective across sectors, it contributes to greater accountability to children, provides concrete means to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse, reduces harm to children, and strengthens the overall impact of sectoral interventions.

In comprehensive inter-agency, multi-sectoral consultations from 2021-2022, the Alliance's Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group (CPMS WG), engaged nearly 400 stakeholders to pinpoint obstacles, opportunities, and crucial priorities for cross-sectoral endeavours on children's welfare. This culminated in the launch of the Inter-Sectoral Framework for Advancing Children's Protection and Well-being, a collective steer for child protection actors and sectoral partners on priority actions for centring children and their protection needs across all programmes, in all sectors, and in all humanitarian responses. It emphasizes the importance of building data, evidence, and learning to enhance practical strategies for collaboration and coordination.

In alignment with this framework, the Alliance and the CPMS WG spearheaded the development of an indicator package, specifically designed to propel children's protection and well-being in four key sectors of humanitarian response:

1. Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM);
2. Education;
3. Food Security; and
4. Health.

This document details the full indicator package, a vital tool for collecting, analysing, and utilizing data that illustrate how the four sectors contribute to enhancing the protection and well-being of children.

[1] Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2022). A Clarion Call: the Centrality of Children and their Protection within humanitarian action. https://alliancecpha.org/en/child-protection-online-library/alliance-strategy-2021-2025-clarion-call-centrality-children

Purpose

The primary purpose of this package is to outline a set of indicators that measure sectoral contributions towards children's protection and well-being. The package does this by providing technical guidance for collecting and analysing data on key indicators in humanitarian action. It includes indicator definitions, calculations and other relevant metadata needed to collect, analyse and understand the indicators.

Audience

The primary audience for the package is humanitarian technical staff, including inter-agency coordinators, technical advisors and programme managers responsible for sectoral and integrated programmes. It is highly recommended for resource mobilisation staff developing funding proposals as well as humanitarian managers and leadership responsible for humanitarian programming and strategy.

Contents

This rest of this document is organized as follows:

- **The Five Core Actions**: An outline of the Five Core Actions, their sub-components and their usefulness in monitoring the cross-sectoral advancement of child protection and well-being.
- **The Logical Framework** which states key indicators for each core action and demonstrates how these indicators contribute to children's protection and well-being.
- **Indicator reference sheets** with details of each indicator presented in the logical framework, complete with indicator definitions and type, methods of computation, data sources, and other notes necessary to correctly collect, analyse and use these data.
- **Guidance on how to operationalize the logical framework and indicator table**, including how to prioritize, collect, analyse and use data.
- **An additional checklist** for managers to identify if they have gaps in how they assess, design, implement and monitor the Five Core Actions in their work.

THE FIVE CORE ACTIONS FOR ADVANCING CHILDREN'S PROTECTION IN SECTORAL WORK

Over two years of collaboration with multi-sectoral partners, the CPMS Working Group and its members developed the Five Core Actions for Mainstreaming Child Protection in Sectoral Work. The Five Core Actions operationalize child protection mainstreaming into critical steps that all sectors must take to meet their responsibilities for the protection and well-being of children, a key segment of affected people in all humanitarian crises. The framework outlines essential programmatic actions to ensure all humanitarian sectors contribute to keeping children safe and protected in their interventions. It brings together key actions from the Child Protection Minimum Standards[2] in a straightforward manner for non-protection specialists, without replacing the sector-specific guidance included in the standards. This is a useful framework for programme monitoring efforts and is applicable to all technical sectors, including Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Education, Food Security, and Health[3].

The Five Core Actions and their sub-components are:

Core Action 1. Prioritize children's safety & wellbeing and avoid causing harm

- incorporate children's protection concerns into sectoral programme planning
- identify actions your sector can take to reduce risks to children accessing your services
- child safeguarding: ensure all staff are trained on codes of conduct, appropriate behaviour with children & how to report inappropriate behaviour[4,5]
- ensure physical safety for children in programme sites: identify and mitigate potential physical risks

Core Action 2. Adapt services to the needs of children

- adapt sectoral programming to needs of children of different ages, genders and abilities

Core Action 3. Child participation, communication and accountability

- provide child-friendly information on your services
- support children's participation throughout the programme cycle
- Ensure accountability mechanisms are child-friendly and accessible to children of different ages, genders and abilities
- strengthen staff skills on child-friendly communication and consultations[6]

[2] Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2019). Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. https://alliancecpha.org/en/child-protection-minimum-standards-working-group

[3] The CCCM, Education, Food Security, and Health sectors all contributed to this package and have ongoing collaborations with the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and its members. However, it is hoped that the package may be used by all humanitarian technical sectors.

[4] Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training is also useful, but needs to include specific modules on the needs of children and obligations under child safeguarding which go beyond typical PSEA training.

[5] See also the Core Humanitarian Standard. https://www.corehumanitarianstandard.org/the-standard.

[6] Psychological First Aid training can also be considered as needed.

Core Action 4. Safe and equitable access for children to humanitarian support

- facilitate safe access for all children to your sector's intervention
- monitor children and families' access, identify and remove barriers

Core Action 5. Safe Recognition, Referral and Response[7]

- train staff on safe recognition and referral of children facing protection risks
- collaborate with child protection actors to maintain clear, up-to-date referral mechanisms
- provide targeted support to children with protection concerns from your sector, as needed

Implementing the Five Core Actions in programmatic work

It is necessary to implement the Five Core Actions across the entire programme cycle. This package provides a checklist for programme managers to use for implementing the Five Core Actions (see Appendix 1). .

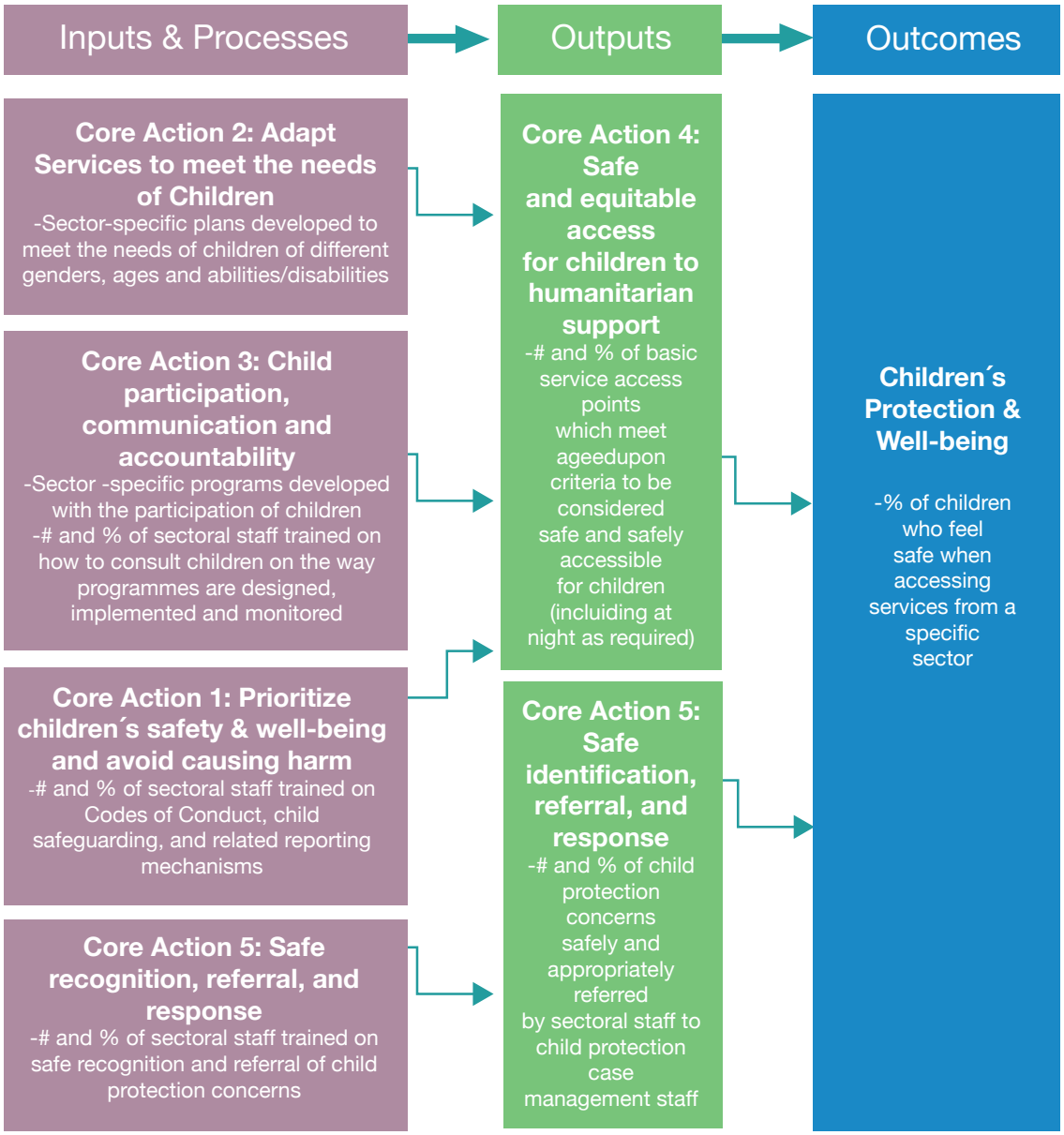
The checklist covers key actions that programme managers should perform during assessment, design, implementation and monitoring of the Five Core Actions and is useful to identify any gaps in the programmatic approach to advancing child protection in a sector. For each phase of work, a set of questions reflecting the main elements that advance child protection into sectoral work are included. During implementation, the overall objective is to achieve a "yes" on each question. As the checklist is intended to be used on an ongoing basis, answers can change over time. Note that each question is mapped against each of the Five Core Actions.

[7] See Child Protection Area of Responsibility (2024). Safe Recognition and Referrals for Child Protection Concerns: Rapid Guide for non-Child Protection actors. https://www.cpaor.net/working-together-for-child-protection-and-wellbeing.

MONITORING THE FIVE CORE ACTIONS USING A LOGICAL FRAMEWORK & PRIORITY INDICATORS

This package outlines a set of indicators to monitor the Five Core Actions. Figure 1 outlines how the Five Core Actions contribute to children's protection and well-being. In the framework, children's protection and well-being are measured using an indicator of children's safety, which is an overarching outcome for the child protection sector and cross-sectoral interventions. Figure 1 also states the specific indicators for each core action, details of which can be found in Table 1.

Figure 1. Logical framework for monitoring the Five Core Actions for advancing children's protection in sectoral work



Priority indicators for the Five Core Actions for Advancing Children's Protection in Sectoral Work

This package lists a set of priority indicators to monitor the Five Core Actions, covering inputs/processes, outputs and one outcome indicator. The majority of indicators are quantitative with only two being qualitative. The Core Actions and their associated indicators are listed below:

Outcome for all Five Core Actions

- % of children who feel safe when accessing services from a specific sector

Core Action 1. Prioritize children's safety & wellbeing and avoid causing harm

- # and % of sectoral staff trained on Codes of Conduct, child safeguarding, and related reporting mechanisms

Core Action 2. Adapt services to the needs of children

- Sector-specific plans developed to meet the needs of children of different genders, ages and abilities/disabilities

Core Action 3. Child participation, communication and accountability

- Sector-specific programs developed with the participation of children
- # and % of sectoral staff trained to consult children on the way programmes are designed, implemented and monitored

Core Action 4. Safe and equitable access for children to humanitarian support

- # and % of basic service access points (e.g., water points, distribution points, health centres, community centres) which meet agreed-upon criteria to be considered safe and safely accessible for children (including at night as required)

Core Action 5. Safe Recognition, Referral and Response

- # and % of sectoral staff trained on safe recognition and referral of child protection concerns
- # and % of child protection concerns safely and appropriately referred by sectoral staff to child protection case management staff

Process to identify and develop indicators

The Alliance implemented an extensive desk review and identified 17 key documents containing indicators that demonstrated the intersectionality of child protection and camp coordination and camp management, education, food security, and health. Documents reviewed included the minimum humanitarian standards covering child protection and each of the four priority sectors above as well as agency and sector-specific measurement frameworks. The desk review uncovered over 700 indicators that were output and outcome level indicators. These were narrowed down to 48 indicators across the Five Core Actions.

Overwhelmingly, these indicators mentioned safety, either in terms of access to humanitarian programmes or safe referral pathways within programmes. Indicators that clearly articulated service adaptation for children's differential needs (Core Action 2), participation (Core Action 3), and prioritisation of safety (Core Action 1) were either non-existent or few in number and highly sector-specific.

Consequently, the indicators presented in this package are indicators developed to directly assess each Core Action and adapted, where possible, from existing indicators reviewed. While resources are not currently available for field-testing and piloting of this package, the Alliance welcomes feedback from users and possible collaborations to explore future field testing. Contact us at the cpms.wg@alliancecpha.org if you would like to provide feedback.

Rationale for recommending these indicators

These indicators build upon existing indicators used in the Child Protection Minimum Standards and related sectoral minimum humanitarian standards, including the Sphere Standards, Camp Management Minimum Standards and the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies. The indicators selected add specificity and contribute to operationalizing and making practical core actions for mainstreaming children's protection concerns into the work of technical sectors like camp coordination and camp management, education, food security and health.

This package also presents a limited set of indicators that are feasible to measure. Additional contextual indicators and indicators related directly to the stated indicators can be added to this package, if they further monitoring needs. As organizations use this package, they may choose to adapt and contextualize it as necessary. Other sector-specific indicators from the joint work of the Global CP AoR and the Alliance will be available in the future. These can be used within the framework of this package through further adaptation.

During the sourcing and development of the indicator package, no overarching or central conceptual framework through which the four priority sectors acted to advance child protection and well-being was found. Programmes differed across the various documents and organisations reviewed, each having different goals, objectives, and approaches to monitoring and evaluation. Consequently, output indicators in one document could be considered as outcome indicators in another, and process indicators in one could be framed as input indicators in another.

To compensate for this finding, this package jointly reports input and process indicators. Organisations using this package can decide if the recommended indicators are input or process indicators based on their programme and tailor the logical framework as necessary.

Furthermore, this package adopts a central outcome indicator to which all other indicators contribute. The outcome of child safety was selected as it is a central component of children's protection and well-being and adequately reflects the overarching goal of strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration for advancing children's protection. It is also the language that is already used most widely by other sectors.

Introduction to the indicator reference sheets

The following pages present indicator reference sheets for each indicator in the logical framework. Each indicator reference sheet contains essential information useful to measure the key indicators. The sheets outline the information below.

- *Indicator name*: This includes the name of the indicator.
- *Indicator type*: This includes input/process, output, outcome which is based on the logical framework.
- *Rationale*: This gives a brief explanation on why this indicator was selected.
- *Method of computation*: This provides detailed notes on how to calculate the indicator, including specifications of the numerator and denominators for quantitative indicators. For qualitative indicators, this section includes response categories used to derive the indicator value.
- *Potential customizations*: This states possible means to customize the indicators, mainly for the purpose of adapting the indicators to each of the four priority sectors.
- *Data sources*: These provide possible data sources for these indicators, including the methodology for data collection.
- *Data collection & reporting frequency*: This gives a suggested schedule of collecting and reporting results of this indicator.
- *Data disaggregation*: This provides suggested disaggregates for the indicator and potential issues with disaggregation.
- *Targets*: These are expected values and trends.
- *Data quality issues*: These give notes and tips when collecting, analysing, and reviewing these data.
- *Additional notes*: Other additional notes are provided to aid the collection, analysis, and interpretation of these indicators.

Outcome indicator related to all Five Core Actions

The outcome of programmatic work is to improve children's protection and well-being. In this package, one indicator is recommended to measure this outcome. This indicator is on children's safety.

Indicator name
Percentage of children who feel safe when accessing services from a specific sector
Indicator type
Outcome
Rationale
While advancing child protection and well-being programming across the humanitarian response can have numerous outcomes, this package focuses on one: children's safety. Children's safety is a well-recognised outcome present in child protection programming and a key outcome that is necessary for the effective and ethical functioning of sectoral programmes.
Method of computation
Divide the numerator by the denominator **Numerator**: number of children who report feeling safe when accessing services from a specific sector **Denominator**: total number of children surveyed on accessing services from a specific sector
Potential customisations
Replace "specific sector" with the sector that you are working in. Note that this indicator does not specify the ages of children. This indicator should be adapted to reflect the age of programme beneficiaries, keeping in mind that older children will be better able to understand and provide responses to the survey question in data collection. Direct questions on feelings of safety should only target children age 12 and older. To understand perceptions of safety for younger children, parents/ caregivers may be surveyed. Alternately, creative methodologies may be used to engage young children in their perceptions of safety. Such consultations should be done only by staff trained in child-friendly consultations and take into account ethical considerations such as do no harm, informed consent/ assent, and confidentiality. For a full guide on consultations with children in humanitarian settings, see: Guidance Children's Consultations in Humanitarian Contexts[8].

[8] Save the Children (2023). Guidance Children's Consultations in Humanitarian Contexts. https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/guidance-childrens-consultations-in-humanitarian-contexts/#:~:text=The%20way%20children%20experience%20disasters,to%20the%20affected%20child%20population.

Data sources: how to collect data

Survey of children and/ or parents who are service users, exit interview of children and/ or parents who are service participants.

While there are many aspects of safety that can be measured, the outcome focuses on safety as it relates to accessing services from a particular sector. This package outlines one question that can be used to measure this indicator:

How safe or unsafe do you feel when accessing services from [*Sector*]?

1. Very unsafe
2. Unsafe
3. Safe
4. Very safe
5. Don't know
6. Declined to answer

This question is adapted from "Measuring the effectiveness of GBV Risk Mitigation in Humanitarian Settings"[9], specifically in the "Menu of Measures"[10] which contains other questions related to safety.

Additional questions and indicators on safety and security are also available from "Defining and measuring child well-being in humanitarian action: a contextualization guide".

Data collection and reporting frequency: when to collect and report data

Ideally, this should be collected at the beginning, middle, and end of a programme cycle. This allows monitoring of the main outcome at key moments and allows for shifting approaches if the outcome is not being met at the midpoint of the programme cycle. If resources permit, the indicator can be collected on a more regular basis such as monthly or bi-monthly.

Data disaggregation

The minimum disaggregates recommended are by age of the child (5-year age groups can be used), gender, and disability/ability status.

Additional disaggregates such as sites/camp/location can also be used to identify geographic areas where services are not producing the intended outcome.

Targets

While there are no official targets for this indicator, programmes should strive towards universal safety. Over the course of the programme, this indicator should trend upwards.

[9] GBV Guidelines (2024). Measuring Gender-Based Violence Risk Mitigation in Humanitarian Settings. https://gbvguidelines.org/en/im/effectiveness/

[10] UNICEF (2022). Menu of Measures: GBV Risk Mitigation. https://gbvguidelines.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Menu-of-Measures_final_color.pdf

Data quality issues
To correctly measure this indicator, ensure that all children or a representative sample of children are included in the survey of service users. Ideally, the percentage of children who refuse to answer the question should be low (less than 10%). When this percentage is high, it can affect the overall conclusions related to this indicator.
Additional notes
If children respond that they feel unsafe or very unsafe, they should be immediately referred to child protection service providers or child safeguarding focal points for further support.

Core Action 1: Prioritise safety and well-being and avoid causing harm

Indicator name
Number and percentage of sectoral staff trained on codes of conduct, child safeguarding, and related reporting mechanisms
Indicator type
Input/Process
Rationale
Codes of conduct, child safeguarding, and related reporting mechanisms are integral to creating safe environments and conditions for children in humanitarian action. This indicator measures the extent to which humanitarian action incorporates these issues into a programme through training of staff.
Method of computation
The numerator (shown below) is the number indicator, and the percentage is calculated as follows: Divide the numerator by the denominator **Numerator**: number of sectoral staff trained on codes of conduct, child safeguarding, and related reporting mechanisms **Denominator**: total number of sectoral staff
Potential customisations
Data sources: how to collect data
Programme document review (HR files, child safeguarding training report); pre- and post-training questionnaires

Data collection and reporting frequency: when to collect and report data
Data should be collected on a quarterly basis.
Data disaggregation
At a minimum, data should be disaggregated by staff type/level.
Targets
Over the course of the programme the number and percentage of staff trained on codes of conduct, child safeguarding, and related reporting mechanisms should increase. All staff working directly with children are expected to be trained on these issues.
Data quality issues
Additional notes
All staff have an obligation to report child safeguarding concerns and staff misconduct and understand appropriate and inappropriate behaviours with children. Sectoral staff are not responsible for responding to child safeguarding cases, rather they must report/refer potential concerns through agreed upon internal and inter-agency reporting mechanisms and/or whistle-blower hotlines. If there is not a dedicated child safeguarding focal point in an agency, human resources departments are normally responsible for receiving and responding to these types of concerns.

Core Action 2: Adapt services to meet the needs of children

Indicator name
Sector-specific programme and response plans developed to meet the needs of children of different genders, ages, and abilities/disabilities
Indicator type
Input/Process
Rationale
This indicator was selected to measure if sectors adapt programmes to meet the needs of children. Services which are adapted to the needs of children will contribute to increased and equitable access.

Method of computation
This is a qualitative indicator where the response categories are “yes” or “no”. This indicator has three sub-components (gender, age, and ability/disability), all of which should be measured.
Potential customisations
Additional country and programme-specific adaptations of services such as cultural adaptation can be considered in addition to the three sub-components.
Data sources: how to collect data
Programme document review (mapping of services)
Data collection and reporting frequency: when to collect and report data
If sector-specific plans are developed taking into consideration gender, age, and ability/disability, the value of this indicator is “yes” and should not vary across the life cycle of the programme. Hence, if the value is “yes” at the start of the programme, there is no need to continuously collect data on this indicator. If the value is “no”, and there are plans to further adapt sector-specific plans to meet the needs of children, then this indicator can be collected on a monthly basis until such time as the value becomes a “yes”.
Data disaggregation
None
Targets
Programmes should aim that all plans are developed to meet the differential needs of children.
Data quality issues
Additional notes
Sector-specific plans must satisfy all categories of gender, age, and ability/disability to meet this indicator. For example, a sector-specific plan on gender must explore relevant needs of girls, boys, and children of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations and identify key actions to meet those needs.

Core Action 3: Child participation, communication, and accountability (indicator 1)

Indicator name
Sector-specific programmes/response plans developed with the participation of children
Indicator type
Input/Process
Rationale
This indicator measures if sectors use child participation to develop their programmes/response plans. Child participation is a key mechanism to ensure accountability to children, to adapt services to meet the needs of children, and to ensure services are safe and appropriate for a diverse group of children. Services which are adapted to the needs of children will contribute to increased and equitable access, reduction in harm created by access barriers, and possible prevention of negative coping mechanisms/ protection violations.
Method of computation
This is a qualitative indicator where the response categories are “yes” or “no”.
Potential customisations
Data sources: how to collect data
Programme document review (mapping of programme locations and available child-participation mechanisms)
Data collection and reporting frequency: when to collect and report data
If sector-specific programs/response plans are developed using child participation, the value of this indicator is “yes” and should not vary across the life cycle of the programme. Hence, if the value is “yes” at the start of the programme, there is no need to continuously collect data on this indicator. If the value is “no”, and there are plans to further adapt sector-specific plans using child participation, then this indicator can be collected on a monthly basis until such time as the value becomes a “yes”.
Data disaggregation
None
Targets
Sectors should aim for all programs and response plans to be developed using child participation.

Data quality issues
Use a consistent definition of child participation when collecting these data over time.
Additional notes
Refer to Children's Participation in Humanitarian Programming[11] for tools and methods to understand how participation can occur and to create a useable definition of child participation.

Core Action 3: Child participation, communication, and accountability (indicator 2)

Indicator name
Number and percentage of sectoral staff trained on how to consult children on the way programmes are designed, implemented, and monitored
Indicator type
Input/Process
Rationale
Sectoral staff should have specific training to ensure that they know how to work with children and specifically, how to engage with children on designing, implementing and monitoring programmes. Inputs from children on specific programme design elements are important to ensure that children's views are taken into consideration and that the programme's beneficiaries are directly able to alter the programme to meet their needs and priorities. Children's participation is a critical component to meeting obligations in accountability to affected populations.
Method of computation
The numerator (shown below) is the number indicator, and the percentage is calculated as follows: Divide the numerator by the denominator **Numerator**: sectoral staff trained to consult children on the way programmes are designed, implemented, and monitored **Denominator**: total number of sectoral staff
Potential customisations

[11] Save the Children (2013). Guidelines for Children's Participation in Humanitarian Programming. https://inee.org/sites/default/files/resources/SC_Children_Participation_Humanitarian_Guidelines.pdf

Data sources: how to collect data
Programme document review (HR files, child safeguarding training report); pre- and post-training questionnaires
Data collection and reporting frequency: when to collect and report data
Data should be collected on a quarterly basis.
Data disaggregation
At a minimum, data should be disaggregated by staff type/level.
Targets
Over the course of the programme, the number and percentage of staff trained to consult children on programme design, implementation, and monitoring should increase. All programme and M&E staff should be trained to consult with children.
Data quality issues
Additional notes
Apply a consistent definition of "training" each time data are collected. Training modules on child participation are included in the Workshop Package on Working together for child protection and well-being[12] from the CP Area of Responsibility and the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

Core Action 4: Safe and equitable access for children to humanitarian support

Indicator name
Number and percentage of basic service access points (for example, water points, distribution points, health centres, community centres) which meet agreed-upon criteria to be considered safe and safely accessible for children (including at night as required)
Indicator type
Output

[12] Child Protection Area of Responsibility and Alliance for Child Proteciton in Humanitarian Action (2024). Workshop Package on Working together for child protection and well-being. https://www.cpaor.net/working-together-for-child-protection-and-wellbeing

Rationale
Safety at service points is one of the primary entry points that programmes can improve to assure that children feel safe during humanitarian action. This package focuses on service points as they are essential in humanitarian action for the delivery of food, shelter, and educational and health interventions.
Method of computation
The numerator (shown below) is the number indicator, and the percentage is calculated as follows: Divide the numerator by the denominator **Numerator**: number of basic service access points that meet agreed-upon safety and accessibility criteria for children **Denominator**: total number of basic service access points
Potential customisations
Replace "basic service access points" with the most relevant sector-specific term. This may include terms such as health centres, clinics, and health posts for the health sector. For the education sector, this can include schools and learning spaces. For food security, this can include food distribution points and water points while for CCCM, this can include community structures and communal spaces, for example, toilets and water points, or others.
Data sources: how to collect data
Programme document review (mapping of basic service access points and monitoring report based on checklist of agreed-upon criteria), safety audits (with adaptations to collect these data). Children should be supported to participate in safety audits whenever possible and when doing so would not expose them to further risks. Joint safety audits conducted by child protection and sectoral actors together are highly recommended. Training should be provided to all staff conducting safety audits on child-friendly communication and consultation techniques and on how to refer safely potential child protection concerns.
Data collection and reporting frequency: when to collect and report data
Data should be collected on a quarterly basis.
Data disaggregation
The minimum disaggregation is by sites/camp/location which identifies locations where services do not meet this indicator.
Targets
Programmes should strive towards 100% of sites meeting the stated criteria. This indicator should trend upwards over the course of the programme.

Data quality issues
Ensure that the same safety criteria are applied equally across all sites.
Additional notes
A list of criteria should be identified and agreed-upon amongst actors in-country, including in consultation with children themselves. The criteria should reflect the differentiated needs of children of different genders, ages, and abilities/disabilities. The list should differ from sector to sector and reflect the specificities of the population and location in which the programme operates. Refer to "Safety audits: a how-to guide" for more information about how to conduct safety audits. While this guide is designed for Gender-Based Violence, it can be adapted to help to understand safety of children. Such adaptations could be done jointly and collaboratively with child protection actors to ensure appropriateness.

Core Action 5: Safe Recognition, Referral & Response (Indicator 1)

Indicator name
and % of sectoral staff trained on safe recognition and referral of child protection concerns
Type of indicator
Input/ Process
Rationale
Training staff on how to recognize that a child may be experiencing or at risk of protection concerns and how to then safely refer this concern to child protection actors is a critical input that contributes to effective referrals and increased support for children with protection concerns. It is therefore a key input into the chain of referrals.
Method of Computation
The numerator (shown below) is the # indicator and the % is measured as follows: Divide the numerator by the denominator **Numerator**: number of sectoral staff trained on safe Recognition and referral of children with protection concerns **Denominator**: total number of sectoral staff
Potential Customizations

Data Sources: How to collect data
Programme document review (HR files, safe recognition and referral training report); pre- and post-training questionnaires
Data Collection & Reporting Frequency: When to collect and report data
Data should be collected on a quarterly basis.
Data Disaggregation
At a minimum, data should be disaggregated by staff type/level.
Targets
Over the course of the programme the number and percentage of staff trained on safe recognition and referral of children with protection concerns should increase. All staff working directly with children are expected to be trained on these issues.
Data Quality Issues
Additional Notes
This indicator refers to staff training on two issues: 1) safe recognition and 2) safe referral of children with protection concerns. To achieve this indicator, staff must meet both requirements. Use a consistent standard/definition for "training" each time data are collected. Note: Recognition here is used to mean that staff have the ability to recognise the signs that a child may be experiencing or at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or violence. "Safe recognition and referral" is an agreed upon term in Alliance publications as of 2024. However, in older documents, the term "safe identification and referral" has been used.

Core Action 5: Safe recognition, referral, and response (indicator 2)

Indicator name
and % of child protection concerns safely and appropriately referred by sectoral staff to child protection case management staff
Type of indicator
Output

Rationale
This indicator logically follows from the input/process indicator in the previous table. If staff are appropriately trained on safe recognition and referral, the number and percentage of concerns safely and appropriated referred by sectoral staff will also increase.
Method of Computation
The numerator (shown below) is the # indicator and the % is calculated as follows: Divide the numerator by the denominator **Numerator**: number of child protection concerns safely and appropriately referred by sectoral staff to child protection case management staff **Denominator**: total number of identified child protection concerns referred by sectoral staff to child protection case management staff
Potential Customizations
Data Sources: How to collect data
Programme document review (referral monitoring tool or referral documentation); Information Management Systems (CPIMS+, ProGres)
Data Collection & Reporting Frequency: When to collect and report data
Data should be collected on a quarterly basis.
Data Disaggregation
The minimum disaggregates are by age of the child (5-year age groups can be used), gender, disability/ ability status. Additional disaggregates such as sites/camp/location can also be used to identify geographic areas where services are not producing the intended output.
Targets
Over time, all concerns should be safely and appropriately referred.
Data Quality Issues
Additional Notes
Child protection concerns must follow safe and appropriate referral pathways designed in a manner that adheres to quality standards of referrals including timeliness, safety (including confidentiality) and effective response.

GUIDANCE ON HOW TO OPERATIONALIZE THE LOGICAL FRAMEWORK AND PRIORITY INDICATORS

Prioritizing Indicators for Data Collection and Analysis

The indicators in this package are intended for monitoring purposes. This package intentionally recommends a limited set of indicators, many of which are not new to these sectors or can easily be collected by tweaking existing indicators. Programme Managers should collect all of these indicators, if possible. If resources are scarce early in programme implementation, the input and process indicators can be prioritized, but as implementation develops, managers should prioritize the outcome and output indicators. Inter-agency sectoral coordinators (e.g. cluster coordinators) are encouraged to include these indicators in humanitarian and refugee response plans where possible.

Note that managers should consider how to involve children in the monitoring and make necessary arrangements including training on child-friendly methods and budgeting for activities with children. Child participation can work to ensure that indicators are age, and gender sensitive to children and that feedback loops are built and implemented over the course of the programme. Managers must consider ethical considerations when facilitating children's participation and ensure it will not expose them to potential harm. Many detailed guidance packages exist on children's participation and children's consultations in humanitarian contexts, including Save the Children's Guidance on Children's Consultations in Humanitarian Contexts (also referred to earlier in this document).

To operationalize this package, managers should incorporate actions across several phases of work. These phases are planning, data collection, data analysis and data use. New/ separate processes are not demanded, rather these steps should be incorporated into normal planning, data collection, data analysis and data use procedures for the whole of a sectoral programme or response.

Planning for Data Collection

In general, the data for these indicators come from routine programme monitoring. During the planning phase, managers should first analyse if the priority indicators are already being collected by reviewing the list of indicators (and their definitions) against data captured by routine programme monitoring. Managers should also review if the desired disaggregates are being collected. This analysis identifies gaps in data which will be filled during data collection.

Data Collection

Managers should then integrate any priority indicators and disaggregates that are not currently being collected into the data collection tools used in routine programming monitoring. If similar indicators are being collected, managers should modify the data collection tools so that the indicators from this package can be collected.

Managers should provide data collection and reporting specialists with an overview of the indicators and disaggregates and the indicator reference sheets. The indicator reference sheets provide clear descriptions of the indicators. However, managers may find it necessary to provide additional training and explanation of the indicators to ensure that they are collected correctly.

During data collection, managers should review the data on an ongoing basis to identify if there are any issues related to the reporting and data quality. The most common issues are usually related to misunderstanding the numerators or denominators, calculation errors, and incomplete reporting across a programme from different programme sites.

Data Analysis

The data analysis phase is relatively straightforward. The general calculation for these indicators is to divide the numerator by the denominator (for percentages) or provide a count. These indicators require that data managers aggregate the data from various sites into a single number.

Managers are expected to check the quality of data. After calculating the levels of each of these indicators and their disaggregates, managers should examine if the results meet their expectations, looking for inconsistencies between observed implementation and the data. In general, the data across sites (such as schools and food service delivery points) should differ based on the intensity of programming, a fact that should also be reflected in data disaggregates. Finally, as data are collected over time, managers should see fairly consistent patterns that match the programme's implementation. Spikes in data can occur if there is a rapid response or injection of resources to the programme.

When considering data analysis, it is essential that data remain anonymous. Ensure that reporting does not include any names or identifiers of people and only aggregate data are reported. See CPMS Standard 5: Information Management for more information[13].

Within this package, indicators can be analysed using a number of disaggregates. At a minimum, the disaggregates should include age, gender and disability. Disaggregating data is contextual and will require managers to choose which disaggregates will provide the most useful information for making programmatic decisions. In general, local contexts are key to making such choices. Additionally, disaggregates that target or measure the progress of prioritized populations should also be calculated.

Data Use

Based on the data collected and analysed, managers can review the data to identify gaps in services and processes and identify if programmes are contributing to the intended outputs and outcome of the Five Core Actions. Any gaps, once identified, can be filled through programmatic shifts including political, financial and human resource mobilisation. Over time, successful programmes should see higher numbers in each of these indicators.

[13] Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2019). Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Standard 5: Information Management. p.88. https://handbook.hspstandards.org/en/cpms/#ch004_006

APPENDIX 1. CHECKLIST TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIVE CORE ACTIONS

1. Assessment

	Checklist	Relevant Core Action(s)	Response *-Yes -Partly -No -Not applicable*	Comments
1	Have you consulted with children about your programme/ response plan?	4		
2	Have you identified needs of children of different ages, genders, and disabilities?	2		
3	Have you identified barriers[14] to children accessing your services and feedback mechanism?	1,2,4		
4	Have you put in place appropriate child safeguarding measures prior to consulting with children	4		
5	Do you have the latest Child Protection referral pathway?	5		
6	Have you considered risks to children in your risk analysis for the program/ response plan?	4		

2. Design

	Checklist	Relevant Core Action(s)	Response *-Yes -Partly -No -Not applicable*	Comments
1	Have you integrated children's needs in your program design/proposal?	2		
2	Have you addressed children's barriers to access your services and feedback mechanism in your program design/proposal?	1, 2		

[14] AAAQ framework for children

3	Have you considered how to support children's participation throughout the program, including through child-friendly program monitoring?	3		
4	Have you integrated risk mitigation measures in your program based on the risk analysis for children?	4		
5	Have you integrated training on safe recognition and referrals of child protection concerns (including Psychological First Aid)?	5		
6	Have you integrated a budget for course correction/programme adjustments to keep making your services and program child friendly?	4		
7	Have you integrated at least one indicator related to Child Protection mainstreaming in your proposal/ program plan?	All		

3. Implementation

	Checklist	Relevant Core Action(s)	Response *-Yes -Partly -No -Not applicable*	Comments
1	Have you consulted, over the past six months, children about how effectively your assistance is responding to their distinct needs and about how to address any challenges in accessing assistance?	1, 3, 4		
2	Do all your frontline workers know how to safely recognize and refer child protection concerns in need to child protection service providers?	5		
3	Have you ensured that children are consulted and know how to channel their feedback and complaints?	3,4		
4	Have you changed some aspects of the way you work/your services based on the feedback you received from children?	1,2,4		
5	Have you created and provided child-friendly information about your service/facilities to children?	3		

4. Monitoring Child Participation

	Checklist	Relevant Core Action(s)	Response *-Yes -Partly -No -Not applicable*	Comments
1	Does your organization collect and use data on the access, the use and the quality of your service/facilities, disaggregated by age, sex and disability?	1		
2	Do you regularly monitor children's access and use of your service/facilities, through safety audits (or any other methods) and discussion with children and their communities?	1		
3	Do you regularly monitor how children feel when they use your services?	1		
4	Are obstacles to safe and equitable access promptly addressed?	1,2,4		

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (the Alliance) sets standards and provides technical guidance to support humanitarian actors in preventing and responding to harm to children.

Find more information on the Alliance's work and join the network at

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WORKING ACROSS SECTORS FOR CHILDREN'S PROTECTION