

Child Protection AoR

NIAF COVID-19 Guidance - Questions and Answers



On 3 April 2020, a nurse takes a girl's temperature at a Primary Health Care Centre in Beirut, Lebanon. © UNICEF/UNI317998/Choufany

This document aims to provide an overview and responses to most frequent questions to child protection partners and stakeholders on the Global Child Protection AoR Needs Identification and Analysis Framework (NIAF) COVID -19 guidance to ensure it is well understood and that partners know when and how to participate at country level.

What is the Child Protection NIAF?

The Child Protection Needs Identification & Analysis Framework (NIAF) is the approach developed and used by the CP AoR to support child protection coordination groups (CPCG), AoRs, country offices, and national and international partners to improve the identification and analysis of child protection needs of children in humanitarian settings, be it in situations of disasters, complex emergencies, famine, or disease.

The CP NIAF is **not** a data collection methodology, but a framework anchored in the principles of inclusion, complementarity, and contextualization. It combines available information management and analysis tools so humanitarian actors can use them to identify and analyse needs more efficiently and effectively. It includes existing child protection data collection and analysis tools, such as context-analysis, secondary data reviews (SDR), Key Informant Interviews (KII), and Household level assessments etc.).

Why is the NIAF for COVID-19 approach and guidance important?

This specific COVID-19 NIAF guidance has been produced by the Child Protection AoR on behalf of the Global Protection Cluster and is intended to support CPCG colleagues in the field in their **analysis for humanitarian needs overview (HNO) and response plans (HRP)** to give more credibility to our sector and children's needs and improve our strategic planning. This guidance is one of a series of support tools developed by the Global Protection Cluster and AoRs to help field colleagues analyse and prioritize during the HPC process and it is aligned with the UNOCHA led initiatives as the Joint Inter-sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) and the Global IM Assessment & Analysis Cell COVID-19 (GIMAC).

The objective of the COVID-19 NIAF Guidance and tools is to identify contextual and child protection indicators that support **the adjustment of the child protection response to the changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance can be wholly or partially implemented based on the context in-country.** The NIAF team, including CP AoR Regional Focal Points and Help Desks, will advise to each country team on how to implement the guidance for the context.

Why should international and national members/partners participate in the NIAF?

Participation of international and national members/partners in the implementation of the NIAF is **critical to ensure that** their context and technical expertise contributes to strategic and programme decision making and informs a well-coordinated and inclusive child protection response. Members will be asked to **interpret** the data and **verify** the analysis and endorse decisions that inform **Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)** and the **Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)**.

What the NIAF articulates? Context-based and joint analysis.

The NIAF uses **context and joint analysis** as key approaches for articulating decision-making processes. Context analysis plays a key role in enabling humanitarian actors to operate in environments characterized by complexity, instability and insecurity. In addition, joint analysis sessions allow CPCGs responding to the COVID-19 pandemic to better understand the socio-cultural, political, economic and geographic factors that give rise to a crisis and may either hamper or enable their response and take decisions accordingly.

The NIAF lists the **main decisions** that a Child Protection Coordination Group **must make** and identifies **guiding questions** that the CPCG **has to answer** to make these decisions. It **defines indicators to use to inform decisions and** identifies **where** the Child Protection Coordination Group **may find the necessary data relevant to these indicators.** It maximizes the use of pre-existing secondary data as well as analysis of relevant data from other humanitarian sectors in line with the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS) standards for work across sectors.

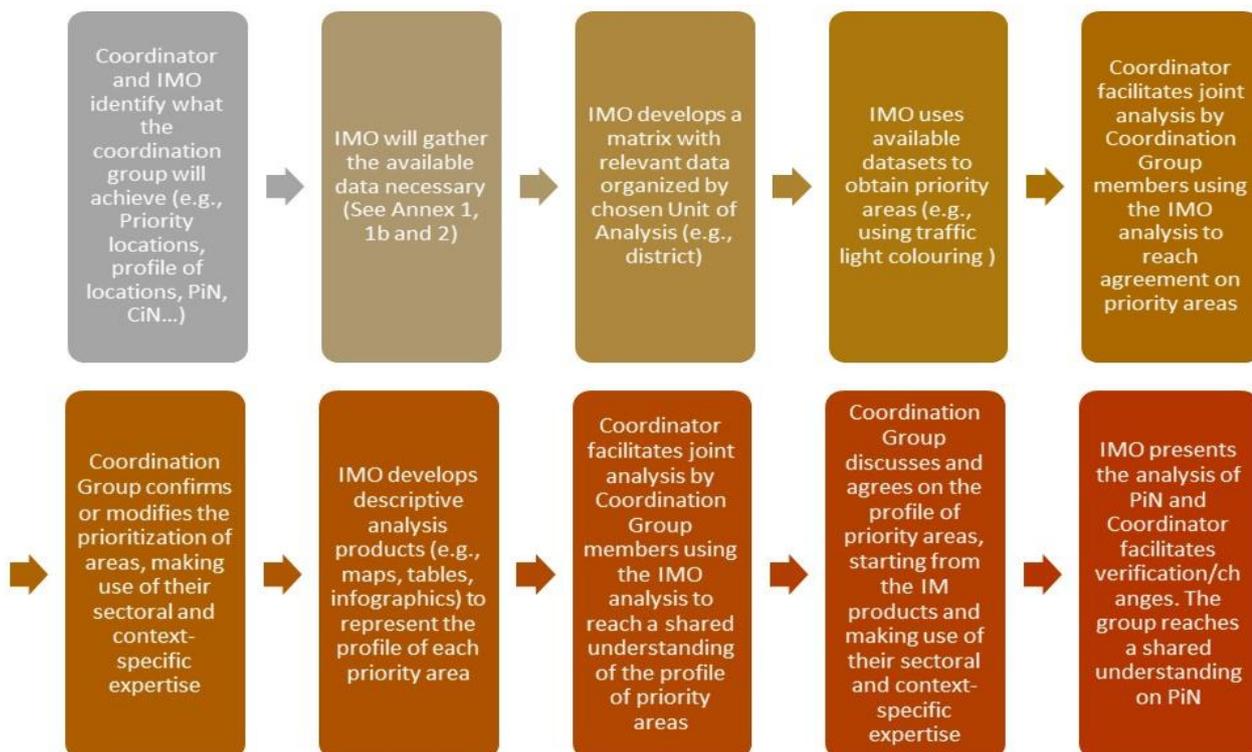
How will child protection coordination groups benefit from the implementation of the NIAF?

Through the implementation of this guidance, CPCGs will be able to:

1. **Carry out a strategic decision-making process:** Defining the steps for CP coordination groups, the guidance implementation will help to effectively define priority geographical areas, considering the COVID-19 spread and impact across each country, priority groups, priority CP risk and target population.

The infographic below summarizes these steps:

- NIAF’s strategic decision-making rationale:

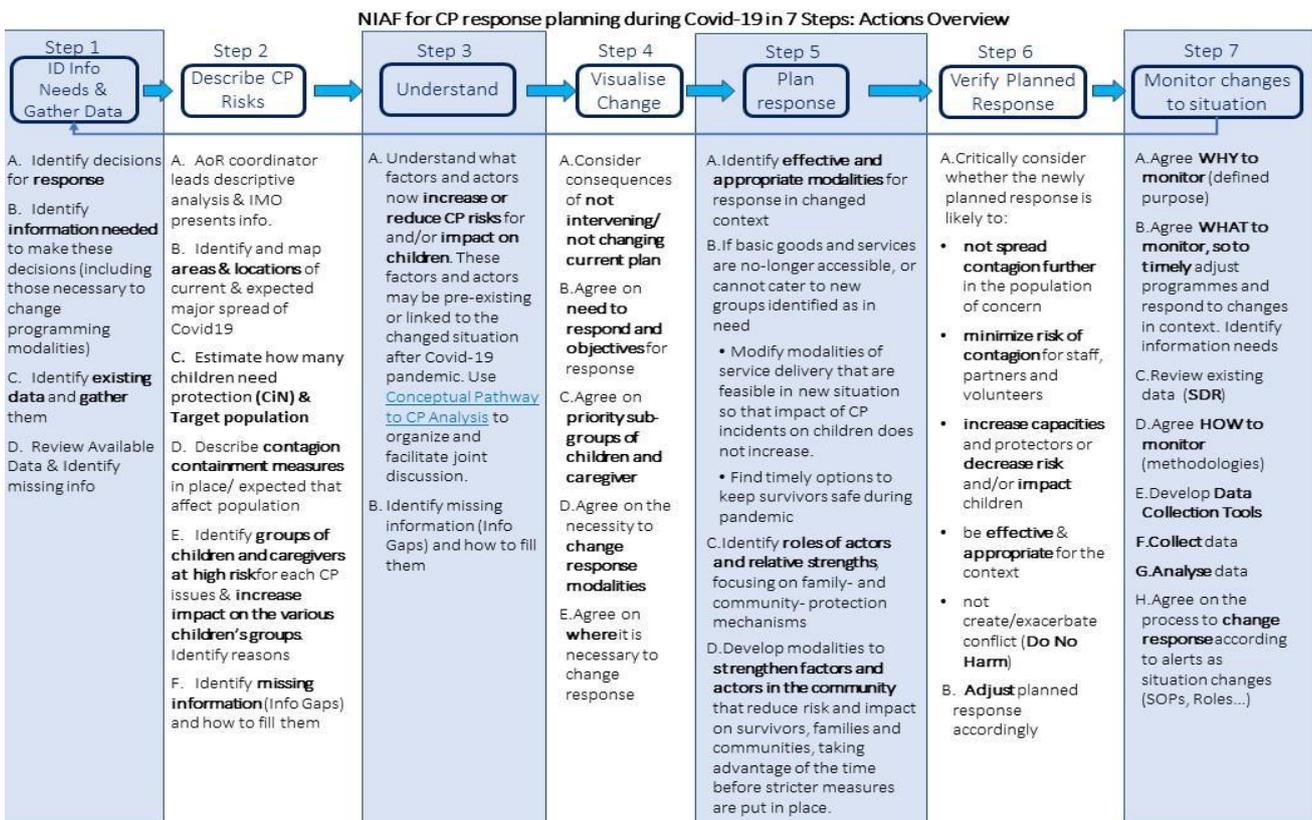


- Estimated strategic decision-making process timeline:

Activity	Estimated timeline
Data gathering and analysis	Between 5 to 7 working days
Data interpretation and analysis	Between 1 to 3 days

2. **Carry out a programmatic decision-making process:** what are the underlying causes, what are the factors increasing/decreasing the CP risk and the impact on survivors, what sub-sectors of the population are more at risk, who is impacted differently, what are effective programme modalities to use as the following infographic shows:

- NIAF’s programmatic decision-making rationale:



- Estimated programmatic decision- making process timeline:

Activity	Estimated timeline
Step 1: information needs & gather data	Between 3 to 5 working days
Steps 2 to 6	Between 1 to 3 days
Step 7	On going after finalization Steps 1 to 6

What are the key roles of the Child Protection Coordination Groups in implementing the NIAF?

Role of the CPCG Coordinator

CP Coordination Group Coordinators and Co-coordinators will guide the coordination group through the needs identification and analysis process and facilitate joint analysis sessions based on the descriptive analysis done by the IMO, keeping in mind objectives and guiding questions, and enabling in order to bring the group to a shared understanding of child protection strategic and programme responses. Coordinators and co-coordinators will support the IMO to access data from other actors and identify the most useful tools to enable joint analysis.

Role of the CPCG Information Management Officer (IMO)

The IMO will identify existing datasets that can be used for strategic and programmatic decision-making. S/he will gather data into a user-friendly matrix by unit of analysis (e.g., district) for each indicator, and develop a descriptive analysis that can be used by members for the joint analysis sessions.

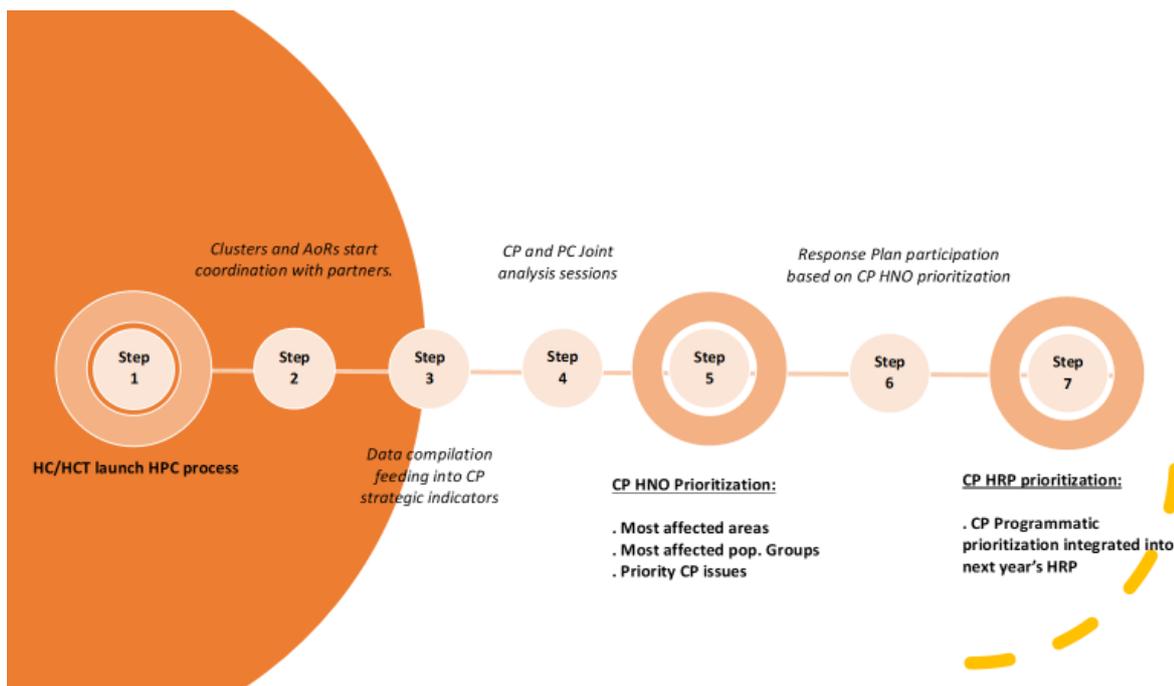
Role of CPCG Members

Participation in the implementation of the NIAF of international and national members/partners of the CPCG is critical for ensuring a more coordinated and relevant child protection response. The guidance during the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) of the CPCG coordination will ensure that CPCGs' contexts and sectoral expertise will be reflected in the **Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) identification and prioritization of needs and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) fundraising and programmatic prioritization.**

The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) working with the Protection Cluster (PC) and the Protection Cluster and Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) will determine the timelines for the NIAF specific activities and the CPCG will be informed accordingly. **Overall, the CPCG and their members are partners will be engaging in the NIAF along these lines:**

- At the **briefings and coordination meetings** organized across the HPC by the CPCG and PC.
- Getting familiar with the **set of indicators as defined by the PC and CPCG** for carrying out the NIAF strategic and programmatic decision-making processes.
- Supporting **data compilation for the strategic and programmatic decision-making** processes data to the IMO. This will ensure that crucial data is considered in the analysis.
- **Participating in the joint analysis sessions** organized by both, PC and CPCG for the HNO and HRP prioritization.
- Validating and endorsing the decisions that that inform **Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)** and the **Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)**. Thus, their own organizations' prioritization and response planning.

The infographic below summarizes how partners can engage in the NIAF implementation:



Where do I go for tailored support?

National and international members/partners will have the continuous support and advice of the CPCG's Coordination team along with Global CP AoR Rapid Response Team Regional Focal Points and CP AoR Language Help Desks. For more information on the NIAF, please contact to your coordination team and Regional Help Desks:

- Global Help Desk: cp-aor@unicef.org
- French Help Desk: cpaor_frenchhelpdesk@unicef.org
- Spanish Help Desk: cpaor_spanishhelpdesk@unicef.org
- Arabic Help Desk: cpaor_arabichelpdesk@unicef.org

As mentioned above, the NIAF is a framework and not just a data collection methodology. However, the NIAF does include methodologies and tools for primary data collection exercises. Thus, if your coordination group is contributing to multi-sectoral assessments to identify child protection needs for HPC purposes, you can reach the contacts above to explore options and devise a strategy appropriate to your context.