



Key Aspects – April 2020

The Activation of Child Protection Coordination Platforms to respond to emergencies

[Selected references & tools](#)

<p>1. Objective: Reinforce or establish a structured platform to strengthen or support national authorities in the coordination of all humanitarian efforts to protect children’s safety and wellbeing from the impacts of emergencies.</p> <p>The coordination mechanism should reinforce national authorities’ capacity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) provide efficient and timely humanitarian relief; 2) ensure child protection is included in all related sectors as an essential aspect of the crisis response; 3) identify needs and fill critical gaps; 4) help improving overall quality and accountability of the collective response. 	<p>CPMS, Standard 1</p>
<p>2. Structure: The activation of coordination platforms should aim to reinforce national mechanisms and established coordination groups, as well as to avoid duplication and creation of parallel systems.</p> <p>In settings where a formal international humanitarian architecture exists (led by a Humanitarian Coordinator, IASC clusters, UNHCR or other arrangements for mixed settings), child protection coordination groups should be building on existing structures and be integrated and formed as required by that framework. If there is no formal coordination system established, institutions and organizations working on child protection should identify and strengthen existing structures (mostly from development work) to deliver coordination services effectively. Usually, the national institutions in charge of child protection have a leading role in such a group, together with a child protection organization with technical expertise in Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) and coordination.</p> <p>It is also essential to influence and coordinate with other relevant sectors and state agencies involved in the response.</p>	<p>CPiE Coordination Handbook, Section 2, Establishing Coordination</p>
<p>3. Key Considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) membership and commitments of the members; 2) respect of humanitarian principles and partnership principles; 3) links/support or establishment of sub-national coordination structures; 4) staff and other resources needed for the coordination; 5) responsibilities and accountabilities; 6) country level exit strategy. 	<p>CPiE Coordination Handbook</p>
<p>4. Procedure: In countries where there is a formal international humanitarian system, the leadership of that structure and its relevant forum (a protection cluster with all cluster lead agencies, for example) have the autonomy to create a specific child protection group.</p> <p>Where such a group does not exist, governments might request international support to respond to the emergency and activate coordination groups, often for a limited period of time. National legislation on disease outbreaks might also exist or be issued which will guide the coordination.</p>	<p>Operational planning guidelines to support country preparedness and response, See ‘Next steps’ and ‘Pillar 1’</p>



5. **Practicalities:** Define the objective(s), scope and modalities of work in a clear Terms of Reference (ToR) for the group. Appoint a coordinator (possibly with co-coordinators), ensure that the group have capacity for producing relevant analytical information products. Members should also be able to commit time for the meetings (as needed and defined by the group), for collecting and sharing relevant data and for carrying out specific tasks as required.

Example of ToR of cluster activated groups ([real](#) and [generic](#)) to be adapted.

6. **Main Functions and tools:** The main functions of coordination groups and the tools commonly used to deliver on them are synthesized below (*coordination is not an objective in itself!*). These can be complemented, adapted or replaced by the systems in place in different countries. Note that national institutions might have their own tools in areas such as information management and analysis.

[CPMS](#), Standard 1

[CPiE Coordination Handbook](#), Section 3

Key functions	Common tools (adaptable)
<p>i. Supporting service delivery: Provide a coordination platform and develop mechanisms to identify gaps and avoid duplication.</p>	<p>Mapping of capacities, 4W (who does what, where and when), calendar of events, meetings.</p>
<p>ii. Informing strategic decision making: Identify needs and gaps and analyze the context and situation to prioritize the response.</p>	<p>Needs Identification and Analysis Framework (NIAF) adapted for COVID-19 (see guidance here).</p>
<p>iii. Planning and implementing response strategies: develop or review sectoral plans as determined by the emergency context with indicators, apply technical standards and clarify funding requirements.</p>	<p>Child Protection Response Plan, PRP, Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), recommendation of prioritized projects/actions to be funded + CPMS for technical standards and its guidance for infectious disease outbreaks (or other national standards).</p>
<p>iv. Monitoring and evaluating performance: monitoring the evolution of needs, of the response (coverage and quality) and the performance of the coordination services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Response monitoring: 5w, activity tracking, situation reports, quality reviews (independent, self or peer to peer). - Situation monitoring: SDR, agency or community or third party based). - Coordination performance monitoring (CCPM).
<p>v. Advocacy: Identify concerns and contribute to strategic communication with key information and messages.</p>	<p>Advocacy plan, common key messages and communication tools (e.g. snapshots, bulletins, funding analysis).</p>
<p>vi. Build capacities in preparedness and contingency planning: contribute to national contingency planning development, update and appropriation, and to training.</p>	<p>Emergency response preparedness for emergencies and its secondary effects + trainings (identify key needs and establish a delivery plan).</p>
<p>vii. Accountability to affected people: Encourage members to inform and involve affected people in the decision making (including children), agree on mechanisms to receive, investigate and act upon complaints, and agree on measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.</p>	<p>Child Helplines, feedback mechanisms, participation in programs definition, community engagement, codes of conduct, etc.</p>



7. **Priorities after activation:** Priorities of coordination groups are specific to the context and can be defined by the sector using the [NIAF](#). These are however common themes observed at initial stages of the response to consider:

Prioritization: Review plans and reprioritize actions for the most vulnerable children based on an updated risk analysis;

Service continuity and adaptation: Adapt the delivery of essential child protection services; seek support synergies with other protection actors e.g. gender-based violence ; review and reinforce an adapted referral systems;

Child protection mainstreaming: bring a child protection sensitive lens to other sectoral plans and services; identify barriers for children and caregivers at risk to accessing assistance;

Field support: focus on supporting subnational actors and elevate key local concerns;

Preparedness: Identify and prepare for responding to secondary effects of the emergency (mainly the risks associated with government measures to contain the virus outbreak and the socio-economic impacts of the crisis).

8. **Intersectoral work:** Participate in the design or joint review of services provided by other sectors (health, education, WASH, food security, shelter, etc.) and review the prioritization of populations and geographic areas to provide an integrated response to children at risk; coordinate assessments and produce cross-sectoral analysis.

Work with other sectors to ensure their services and programs are 1) accessible by the most vulnerable groups (including disabled children); 2) delivered in an adapted and safe way for children; 3) produce no unintended harm; 4) contribute to specific child protection outcomes. See Pillar 4 of the CPMS for more information.

9. **Support:** The Global CP AoR provides support to CP coordination groups in humanitarian contexts. In the framework of emergencies, it also supports sectoral coordination mechanisms along with the sector lead agency (UNICEF for CP). To do so, members of CP coordination groups can contact their language helpdesks (in Arabic, English, Spanish and French) to ask technical questions or request specific country examples to support their work. New groups and coordinators can also contact their regional focal points for an online induction on services provided at global level. The Global CP AoR has thematic experts on a variety of themes, including gender-based violence, mental health and psychosocial support, localization, prevention of violence against children, strategic analysis, coordination and information management.

External [support options](#) for Country-level Coordination Teams from the Global CP AoR