

Recommendations to Enhance Collaboration between Child Protection and Food Security Actors

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PURPOSE:

This document has been developed by Child Protection and Food Security actors to outline ways in which we can work towards greater collaboration for addressing protection risks for children within food insecure contexts.

TO CHILD PROTECTION AND FOOD SECURITY ACTORS:

- Recognizing the **shared goal of children's holistic well-being and development**, work together in food insecure contexts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to children's protection issues resulting from food insecurity.
- As much as possible, conduct **needs assessments** that reflect the specific needs and risks faced by girls and boys in food insecure contexts and improve documentation of the **linkages between food insecurity and child protection risks**.
- For stand-alone child protection and food security programs, **aspire for joint planning interventions in overlapping geographic areas** and work together to ensure that vulnerable children and their families can access both Child Protection and Food Security interventions.
- **Strive to work together to design, implement, and monitor integrated child protection and food security programs** to address the multi-sectoral needs of food insecure children and families.
 - Develop program models and approaches which target vulnerable children and families to prevent and respond to child protection risks and negative coping mechanisms associated with food insecurity.
 - Work together to ensure that programs monitor and evaluate joint outcomes, including positive benefits to children's well-being and cost-effectiveness, in order to develop evidence-based program models.
- Work towards strengthening **children's participation and empowerment** in responses in food insecure contexts.

- Develop and pilot child-friendly and participatory food security assessment tools to ensure children’s and adolescents’ specific needs are captured by food security assessments.
- Work together to strengthen food security actors’ capacities to engage children and adolescents meaningfully and safely during assessments, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- Strengthen **Child Protection Mainstreaming**, alongside Protection Mainstreaming, within Food Security programming, and work together to strengthen capacities of Food Security actors to take specific measures to ensure children’s safety and dignity, access, accountability, and participation and empowerment in Food Security programming.
- Ensure that **all accountability mechanisms**, such as feedback and complaints mechanisms, are child-friendly and accessible to children in all their diversity.¹

TO HUMANITARIAN COORDINATORS AND HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAMS:

- Acknowledge the life-saving nature of child protection interventions in humanitarian action and **prioritize child protection in preparedness and response planning** in food insecure contexts.
 - In decision-making on funding for responses in food insecure contexts, include **allocation for stand-alone child protection interventions** and **inter-sectoral needs assessments, analysis, and response** that address children’s protection risks resulting from food insecurity.
 - Strive to facilitate the inclusion of child protection considerations and children’s participation in food security assessments, through the use of child-friendly data collection tools.
- Encourage **Child Protection Area of Responsibility and Food Security Cluster coordinators** to jointly plan responses in overlapping geographic areas and establish functional cross-sectoral referral pathways.
- In **Humanitarian Response Plans and Regional Response Plans**, clearly outline child protection risks driven by food insecurity and how child protection and food security responses will be complementary with the support of child protection actors.

¹ Plan International, [Child-Friendly Feedback Mechanisms Guide and Toolkit](#), July 2018.

TO DONORS:

- Recognize the clear link between child protection risks and food insecurity² and **prioritize child protection interventions as part of the hunger crisis response**.
 - When food insecurity and famine-like conditions are predicted, ensure that funding for specialized child protection interventions are prioritized alongside food security interventions. Child Protection interventions include psychosocial support, family strengthening, and case management services to prevent and respond to child protection risks exacerbated by food insecurity and should be supported by child protection actors.
 - In food insecure contexts, scale-up funding for existing child protection interventions to reach children and caregivers most affected by food insecurity and prevent and respond to children's protection issues.
 - Ensure that funding for child protection interventions is available in areas most affected by food insecurity in order to prevent and respond to child protection risks and negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour and child marriage.
 - Within the criteria for funded proposals, establish clear linkages between child protection, children's participation and empowerment, and food security.
- Fund **multi-year integrated Child Protection and Food Security programs** to address the multi-sectoral needs of food insecure children and families.
 - Support the development of program models and approaches which aim to prevent and respond to child protection risks associated with food insecurity, and fund evaluations to strengthen evidence-based programming.
 - Invest in and advocate for building capacities of child protection and food security actors to collaborate and design integrated programs which prevent and respond to child protection risks in food insecure contexts.
- In line with the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action, promote **child protection mainstreaming considerations**, alongside protection mainstreaming, within food security proposals and program design.
 - Request that food security actors demonstrate how children's safety and dignity, access, accountability, and participation and empowerment will be ensured in project proposals and subsequent reporting.

² Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility and Plan International. [Child Protection and Food Security: An Evidence Review of the Linkages in Humanitarian Settings](#). 2022.



- Support and fund capacity-strengthening of food security actors on child protection mainstreaming and dissemination of child protection mainstreaming standards, resources and good practices as part of funding proposals.³
 - Invest in capacity-strengthening of existing Protection Officers or fund specialized Child Protection Officers who work with Food Security organizations to provide specific support to mainstreaming child protection.
- Adequately **fund Child Protection Areas of Responsibility and Food Security Clusters**, including at field/sub-national level, and promote regular information sharing, and functional cross-sectoral referral pathways in order to leverage each sector's resources.

³ Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, [Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#), 2019. See Standard 22 Food Security and Child Protection, Standard 23 Livelihood and Child Protection, Standard 25 Nutrition and Child Protection.