THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

SUMMARY OF ABSTRACTS

2020 ANNUAL MEETING FOR CHILD
PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION:
INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS
& THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

OVERVIEW

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in the 2020 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. We are excited to showcase this year's summary of abstracts, which are of exceptional quality. We would like to thank all the authors for putting together these abstracts and sharing their work. Not only will it help the discussions during the Annual Meeting, but it also reminds us of the dedication and hard work of our colleagues in protecting children in times of emergency.

We would also like to thank the abstract review committee for their meticulous engagement and review of all submitted abstracts. Their contribution to the meeting's success is undeniable.

This booklet contains abstracts that were submitted for the 2020 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action from October 5-16, 2020. The theme of this meeting is 'Infectious Disease Outbreaks and the Protection of Children.'

The abstracts were organised by countries of focus (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, and Worldwide) and are searchable by author, organisation, and key words. In addition, an index is provided on pages 6 and 7 that follows the agenda for the 2020 Annual Meeting.

We hope you will be inspired by these abstracts.

Warm regards,

Audrey Bollier and Hani Mansourian, Co-Coordinators
The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

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AFRICA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE: PARENTING IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE (FRENCH)

Author: Amos Dembele
Organisation: International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Key Words: child well-being; child labour; violence against children

Background:

Les enfants vivant dans les zones cacaoyères de la Côte d'Ivoire (CDI) risquent fortement de subir des retards de développement physique, intellectuel et socio-émotionnel en raison de facteurs associés à la pauvreté, à la malnutrition et aux violations des droits de l'enfant. Ces retards peuvent avoir des conséquences à long terme sur la santé, l'éducation, le bien-être et la prospérité des individus, ainsi que pour les communautés plus larges auxquelles ils appartiennent. Le phénomène du travail des enfants, associé au manque d'accès aux compétences parentales et aux programmes d'apprentissage précoce de qualité dans les zones productrices de cacao en CDI, menacent le développement sain d'une génération de jeunes enfants. Afin de créer des programmes évolutifs et durables pour faire face à ces défis, de nouveaux modèles sont nécessaires pour promouvoir une culture de parentalité positive, d'apprentissage et d'engagement communautaire dans le DPE.

Type of Activity:

Les principales activités menées par IRC en Côte d'Ivoire sont l'identification des communautés et des participants, la conduite d'évaluations initiales et finales, l'assurance de la participation et l'engagement du gouvernement dans le projet, la mise en œuvre de la formation FMD auprès des parents, la mobilisation communautaire pour la création/construction de CACE. Quelques résultats de l'évaluation menée sont le bien-être des parents., la discipline des enfants., le développement de la petite enfance.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- La disponibilité des parents à participer, ainsi que celle des travailleurs sociaux
- L'implication des parents dans le choix du jour et de l'heure des rencontres facilite la tenue des sessions FMD
- L'ouverture de la formation FMD aux responsables de l'Education a permis à ceux-ci de comprendre l'importance du PEP et d'entrevoir de l'intégrer dans le programme de formation initiale des enseignants du primaire

INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE EBOLA OUTBREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC CONGO (DRC) FROM 2018 TO 2020

Author: Ulrike Julia Wendt
Organisation: International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Key Words: case management, community-based activities, mental health and psychosocial support

Background:

DRC's tenth and worldwide second largest Ebola outbreak was declared in North Kivu and neighboring provinces between August 2018 and June 2020. In total, 3,470 cases were reported, including 29% of children. The epidemic left thousands of Ebola orphans behind, having lost one or both of their caregivers. The COVID-19 outbreak in DRC in March 2020 has further aggravated the situation of children. It not only increased children's risk to face different types of violence (e.g. domestic violence, child labour) already widespread in the DRC - but also implied the closure of schools, for example. Within this context, the IRC has implemented an emergency response to the Ebola outbreak in DRC since 2018. Integrated with health, WASH and women's protection and empowerment interventions, IRC's child protection (CP) intervention aims to ensure safe access to psychosocial support (PSS) services for children facing Ebola-related protection risks, promote children's and community resilience and their participation in solutions.

Type of Activity:

With health as the entry-point, IRC's protection activities reinforce existing community-based structures, and provide individual support to children affected by Ebola and other child protection concerns in the area of response. With COVID-19, activities were adapted and focus now on Ebola and Covid-19.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Response to infectious diseases is often presented as a health crisis, making it difficult for the child related risks to be assessed and understood.
- Until now, accessible funding has only been short-term, focusing on children's immediate needs.
- Local organizations must be part of the response to infectious diseases. Often seen as an emergency, the effects on children only begin to manifest even when zero cases are reported.
- The value of providing individualized support to children in need is high. Their individual stories of having experienced an infectious disease are so manifold and shocking, each of which must be addressed accordingly.

KENYA: SCOUTS-LED RAPID RESPONSE INITIATIVES (RRIS) FOLLOWING THE SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Author: Henry Waitindi
Organisation: AVSI Foundation
Key Words: education in emergencies; mental health and psychosocial support; child trafficking

Background:

The four months of actions initiated by AVSI working directly with boys and girls in scouts' movements through a child-to-child approach guided by teachers (as scouts' leaders), aimed to reassure children to implement the measures and protocols provided by the Ministry of Health, and equip them with the life skills in scouting to cope with the "New Normal." School closures have threatened children's protection, safety, and MHPSS, starting a worrying trend that exposed them, not only to the pandemic related risks but also risks attributed to being out of school. The refugee camps schools provide 1, safe spaces for children, particularly girls; 2, support children with MHPSS, particularly child-headed households; and 3, safety from radicalization, recruitment, and child trafficking.

Type of Activity:

The RRIs activity plans were customized for each of the three camps and the two host communities located within the 50km radius of the camps. AVSI engaged in several activities, including 1, the demystification of false theories on COVID-19; 2, translating COVID-19 fact sheets into local Somali language; 3, construction of handwashing stands with demonstrations of handwashing and other preventive measures; 4, information dissemination on preventive measures using the local FM radio; and 4, providing reusable face masks, soaps and sanitizers, and handwashing stands to the most vulnerable families.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Inadequate resources to meet the child-to-child initiatives by refugees and host community children
- Used local materials to address local solutions like the scouts-made handwashing stands accompanied by the COVID-19 fact sheet translated into local Somali language and used children to broadcast in the local media

NIGER: PROTECTION DE L'ENFANCE EN PÉRIODE DE COVID-19 (FRENCH)

Author: Rekia Boukary Sidibé
Organisation: UNICEF
Key Words: remote response; capacity-building; resilience

Background:

Le Niger fait face depuis des années à une crise sécuritaire ayant engendré de nombreux déplacés (refugiés, IDP et retournés) et ayant eu des impacts importants sur le bien-être psychosocial et de santé mentale des populations affectées y compris les communautés d'accueil. La pandémie de COVID-19 a constitué un facteur de risque supplémentaire dans la protection de l'enfance. Cette situation a mis en rude épreuve les interventions humanitaires rendant difficile l'accès aux services d'assistance alimentaires aux personnes vulnérables. Pendant cette période, les enfants particulièrement ceux en situation de mobilité sont exposés aux risques d'abus, d'exploitation et de négligence. Certains d'entre eux ont été victimes de discrimination et de rejet par leurs communautés.

Type of Activity:

Les activités de protection de l'enfance pendant la période de COVID-19 se sont poursuivies malgré les difficultés d'accès à certains lieux par les acteurs humanitaires. Ainsi pour répondre aux multiples sollicitations des enfants vivant avec des problèmes de protection dans les communautés. Pour ce faire un accent particulier a été mis sur la protection à base communautaire. Il s'agit pour l'essentiel de travailler à distance avec les comités de protection locaux afin de renforcer leurs capacités tout en identifiant les ressources communautaires disponibles. Des formations à travers les appels téléphoniques et en présentiel en nombre limité et respectant les mesures de prévention de COVID-19 (port de bavettes, lavage des mains avec du savon et l'utilisation du gel désinfectant, ainsi que la distanciation physique), le renforcement des capacités du personnel (travailleurs sociaux) sur la gestion des cas en temps de pandémie et sur les premiers soins à offrir aux enfants en situation de vulnérabilité.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Restriction des mouvements, des rassemblements y compris les jeux collectifs entre les enfants, limitation d'accès/ fermeture des lieux de loisirs et divertissement pour enfants, des écoles, la perte d'emploi pour les travailleurs journaliers
- Possibilité d'adapter la protection de l'enfance même en période de pandémie;
- Utilisation des NTIC pour répondre aux besoins de protection de l'enfance (télétravail) et adaptation des outils de gestion des cas au contexte du COVID-19.

SOUTH SUDAN: RESPONSE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS: PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH REMOTE CASE MANAGEMENT TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF LEARNING AND OTHER VITAL SERVICES

Author: Johnson Okwera

Organisation: AVSI Foundation

Key Words: education in emergencies; refugees; remote response; resilience

Background:

The conflict outbreak in South Sudan in July 2016 and the escalation of the conflict to other parts of the country and the subsequent food insecurity, and loss of security and resources, continue to displace millions of South Sudanese to Northern Uganda and other parts of South Sudan. With children forming about 61% of the refugee population, one of their urgent needs has been the provision of education. Closures have not only interrupted learning but have also exacerbated social interaction that is essential to learning and development, especially in these times when children may be feeling anxious/fearful.

Type of Activity:

AVSI Foundation and a consortium of organizations in Uganda, South Sudan, and Global partners have formulated the four-year program, Building Resilience: Education Opportunities in Fragile and Crisis Affected Environments (BRICE) funded by the European Union (2018-2022). AVSI continues to deploy trained staff who primarily respond to PSS cases through coordinated and completed referrals and management of the toll-free response platform to quickly respond to and refer cases. AVSI also engaged in radio talk shows and spot messaging on education, where messaging was themed on COVID-19 related risk communication and community engagement, SGBV, protection, and education. As part of risk communication and community engagement, we conducted road drives around the settlement, reaching over 3,000 beneficiaries, and produced media spot messages for PSS and education that ran on local FM stations in local languages.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Refugee children are often left behind in the achievement of inclusive and meaningful education, and we found a need to scale up AEP investments and integrate this into country-wide education approaches to close the gap.

SUDAN: CHILD PROTECTION AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN DURING COVID-19: KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Author: Hawa Eltigani
Organisation: Plan International
Key Words: community-based activities; awareness materials; remote response

Background:

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in Sudan in mid-March, the Government has confirmed that 11,237 people have contracted the virus, including 708 deaths, and all 18 states have reported cases. The increasing number of transmissions continues to place pressure on the country's fragile health system, according to humanitarian partners. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Plan International Sudan Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE) teams reflected early on about how to prepare for a possible outbreak in Sudan, despite there being few cases recorded in the country at the time. Teams prioritized making children, their families, and community members aware of the pandemic, how to keep safe, and what to do if cases were discovered in their communities.

Type of Activity:

Plan International engaged in the following activities: 1, community education and awareness-raising using pre-recorded messages which were transferred onto memory sticks and into hand-held megaphones for broadcasting. This pre-recorded, automatic messages playing through megaphones was especially useful during lockdown because it allowed community volunteers to switch the devices on and off; 2, consultations with children on how to develop the WHO and government messaging on COVID-19 into child-friendly messages that were considered appropriate and understandable by children; 3, Children and Youth competitions were employed to ensure that the younger audience was targeted in a fun way for higher uptake of the messages on COVID-19 and child protection. This was done using community volunteers who moved door-to-door and engaged the children, youth, and their caregivers; volunteers also remotely engaged those with social media access.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The main challenge is the limited access to persons with disability in terms of having few or no community volunteers that can communicate using sign language or provide braille material for the visually impaired
- Building onto existing community resources and capacities, such as functional CBCPMs, is critical when adaptations must be made in a very short time

TANZANIA: PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE CARE DURING COVID-19: RESPONSE IN TANZANIAN REFUGEE CAMPS FOR BURUNDIAN AND CONGOLESE POPULATIONS

Author: Marion Mwebi
Organisation: Plan International Tanzania
Key Words: refugees; capacity-building; case management

Background:

Tanzania is home to more than 284,108 Burundian and Congolese refugees of whom 60% are children and adolescents in Nduta, Mtendeli, and Nyarugusu refugee camps. Over 1,000 children have been placed in different forms of alternative care and are being supported by Plan International. Tanzania is one of the 13 African countries categorized by WHO as priority-1 for being at the highest risk of COVID-19 case transmission. To date, the official figure of COVID -19 cases stands at 509,21 deaths and 183 recoveries.

Type of Activity:

The Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) program aims to ensure that children, adolescents, and youth have access to protection services and strengthen cross-border protection mechanisms until December 2020. These activities include 1, engagement of refugee community leaders, orientation on the need for dedicated standby foster parents, and mobilization of community members who enrol as standby foster parents; 2, capacity-building for agency caseworkers, community volunteers, and standby foster parents was intensified to ensure quality alternative care services; 3, provision of safety gear and tools such as, IPC guidance and PPE for caseworkers, stationery, forms, badges for identification, and vests for visibility, phones, and phone airtime; 4, protection monitoring and evaluation; the existing caseload was analysed to identify the most vulnerable children who might need alternative care and those already in care. Plan International CPiE programming, therefore, included adaptations to existing interventions for children at risk to ensure continued prevention, preparedness, and response in collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF, Government and, other agencies across the sectors.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Obtaining sufficient numbers of standby foster parents to cater for children that might need alternative care when parents are in isolation was challenging
- There is great need to invest in community-level approaches including strengthening of CBCP mechanisms, more so with agencies increasingly relying on them

UGANDA: RESPONSE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS: PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH REMOTE CASE MANAGEMENT TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF VITAL SERVICES

Author: Flora Adokorach

Organisation: AVSI Foundation

Key Words: infectious disease outbreaks; violence against children; gender-based violence

Background:

The Better Outcomes for Children and Youth in Northern and Eastern Uganda is a five-year USAID funded project implemented by World Education/Bantwana Initiative in 20 districts of Eastern and Northern Uganda. Its purpose is to improve the well-being of children, youth, and caregivers made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS and other adversities through Economic Empowerment, Systems Strengthening, and Case Management. Over the years, this project has shifted more into HIV/AIDS interventions with surge activities to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable children on care, especially the non-suppressing children.

Type of Activity:

Under the Better Outcomes project, the CUG approach has been accelerated during COVID-19 and is being utilized to report and follow up on GBV and VAC cases, including providing 124 Para-social workers and community Linkage facilitators with bundles to respond to additional caseloads of VAC. Due to school closures, home-based sessions have been adopted to reach out to children and youth with important messages encouraging them to remain focused. In order to respond to the needs of the children on Anti-Retroviral Therapy during COVID-19, key approaches were used, such as the provision of food items to supplement dietary needs.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The number of 'high viral' children kept majorly increasing due to poor feeding and limited parental engagement in monitoring the children.
- Many children were not accompanied to the facility for refills as expected.

ZIMBABWE: TASK SHIFTING, VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT, AND PARTICIPATORY LEARNING-LESSONS FROM ZIMBABWE

Author: Susan Wyatt
Organisation: Tana Consulting
Key Words: community-based activities; food security; violence against children; mental health and psychosocial support

Author: Flora Adokorach

Organisation: AVSI Foundation

Key Words: infectious disease outbreaks; violence against children; gender-based violence

Background:

By April 2020, Zimbabweans were faced with an incapacitated public health system and limited access to basic services such as clean water, electricity, and safe housing. OCHA estimated that over seven million Zimbabweans required 'urgent humanitarian assistance' due to chronic food insecurity and reduced means of income generation. One month into an imposed national lockdown, the protracted and combined vulnerability factors present in Zimbabwe began to manifest, resulting in a 43% increase in child abuse reports, 90% increase in GBV reports, and documented cases of state-sponsored violence including violence against children.

Type of Activity:

Some local NGOs and civil society networks proactively used the initial phases of the lockdown to assess, design, and implement remote capacity-building activities related to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), community mobilization, health sensitization, community-led child protection, and community resilience-building measures. These activities were a part of community-based child protection programs using local actors and networks, in rural and peri-urban areas, including preventative measures using remote access platforms and recovery mechanisms in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai for resilience building.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Urgent survival needs have presided over training, meaningful engagement in CP, or program activities at times
- Pressing need for interagency collaborations due to multiple vulnerability factors at play
- Sensitization to health and protection principles requires time and relationship building, but ultimately creates the foundation for ongoing community work

AFRICA: COPING WITH COVID-19: SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND THEIR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Author: Anna Belt and Lotte Claessense

Organisation: Plan International

Key Words: adolescents; parents and caretakers; gender-based violence; remote response

Background:

Adolescents are an overlooked group in any crisis, with some of the main risks including disruption in education and (permanent) drop-out from school, limited opportunities to see friends/peers, lack of access to health services including psychosocial support, SRHR, and WASH. Protection concerns, therefore, include parental stress, family violence, family separation, psychosocial distress, child labour, and (online) exploitation. We also know that adolescent girls are exceptionally vulnerable in crises such as COVID-19, as they are at a greater risk to experience child marriage and sexual violence, teenage pregnancy, social isolation and disproportionate burden of household duties, and low access to services, including menstrual hygiene management services.

Type of Activity:

The Coping with COVID-19 package had been designed to contribute to the protection, well-being, and development of adolescents (10-19) and their parents/caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The package offers six 45-minute sessions for adolescents and six 45-minute sessions for their parents/caregivers. Each session includes key information and practices, participatory activities, and discussions that explore COVID-19 and its impact on the lives of adolescents and their families. The package includes practical guidelines for implementation, resources for the facilitator, handouts for participants, and M&E tools. The program is currently implemented in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, and South Sudan.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Fear among staff and community members as well as national/local COVID-19 restrictions regarding movement, social gatherings, etc.
- Initiating exchange sessions between countries implementing the package for cross-learning, building evidence from and developing guidance on remote delivery modalities (using internet, TV, or radio programming), and development of more M&E tools

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN: ADOPTING A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CHILD PROTECTION DURING COVID-19 IN THE WESTERN REGION OF AFGHANISTAN

Author: Abebe Jaleta

Organisation: War Child UK

Key Words: helplines; capacity-building; mental health and psychosocial support; multi-sector

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Afghanistan significantly, affecting the country both directly from the virus and indirectly from the negative social and economic impacts. Additionally, the weakened health system's lack of capacity, poverty, loss of livelihoods and opportunities, fear of infection, and the ongoing political turmoil and growing insecurity have been affecting the country's capacity to provide an effective and inclusive response. Particularly, children who are already at risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse will find themselves even more vulnerable, as disruptions to families, friendships, daily routines, and the wider community can have negative consequences for children's well-being, development, and protection. War Child UK has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western region of Afghanistan through a holistic and integrated emergency response focusing on Protection, Education, and Livelihood interventions.

Type of Activity:

The humanitarian sector in Afghanistan has responded by developing a COVID-19 Multi-Sector Country Plan that details national vulnerabilities, funding requirements, and planned responses by sector. The Protection Cluster has prioritized activities such as awareness-raising on child protection issues, delivery of psychosocial support activities through alternate modalities, and responding to cases of unaccompanied and separated children. These activities included 1, the re-activation and operationalization of the Child Helpline (CHL) service; 2, establishment and training of two mobile teams for provision of PSS, PFA, and outreach activities; and 3, distribution of COVID-19 Protective Kits, including hygiene kits for vulnerable children and their families.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Many rural communities and the most vulnerable children lack access to basic information on COVID-19 and protection services
- The use of private telecommunication companies slowed the process in getting a Toll-Free number for the child helpline

BANGLADESH: SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE STRENGTHENING AMID COVID-19 INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK AND EMERGENCY SITUATION

Author: Jamila Akhter

Organisation: UNICEF

Key Words: violence against children; case management; social welfare

Background:

The Bangladesh Government officially acknowledged the spread of COVID-19 in March 2020 and issued a ten-day shut-down in the country. Additionally, all educational institutions have been declared closed until September 2020, with nearly 41.89 million schoolchildren staying at home. The MICS 2019 report has already revealed that 89% of children in Bangladesh have experienced violent discipline in the home and children are at a greater risk of violence due to lockdown. Inter-Agency Assessment has found the "beating" of children increased to 42% since COVID-19 lockdowns. In addition, a roughly estimated 670,000 children who were living on the street, 75% of whom were in streets in Dhaka, are at high risk of exposure to COVID-19 and are even at higher risk of exploitation and abuse due to lockdown.

Type of Activity:

The Department of Social Services and UNICEF led several initiatives to continue providing social services and social work support to children and families during the lockdown and to help them fight post lockdown socio-economic issues. Including 1, establishing a tent-based-emergency child protection service hub; 2, providing online training to social workers to increase their knowledge on child protection social work; 3, providing personal hygiene and safety from infectious disease while working at the community level; 4, conducting remote follow-up with children and continuing case management support to children; and 5, increasing human resources such as Child Helpline staffs, and child protection Social Workers. With technical and financial support from UNICEF, the Department of Social Services kept shelter homes open supporting children needing immediate protection such as children living on the street.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Current Government workforce is just over 3,000, but there is a need of 85,000 social workers and para-social workers to cover all needs to respond to the outcomes of COVID-19

BANGLADESH: PREPARING FOR UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN IN HEALTH FACILITIES IN COX'S BAZAR

Author: Jacob Sarker

Organisation: Save the Children

Key Words: violence against children; refugees; case management; caregivers

Background:

Approximately one million Rohingya refugees reside in the densely populated and overcrowded camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Where social distancing and simple hygiene practices are nearly impossible, the impact of COVID-19 is anticipated to be dire. On 24 March, the Government of Bangladesh closed both non-formal and formal schools and educational institutions and imposed limitations on movement within the Rohingya camps. In Cox's Bazar district, the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner initially guided essential and critical services that may continue in the camps. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened protection risks for children while creating new concerns. The increased stress in families due to isolation, economic hardship, and the lockdown have presented fertile ground for an increase in violence against children and adolescents, particularly domestic violence and child abuse.

Type of Activity:

In preparation for the upward trajectory of cases, and subsequent risks this poses to family unity, health and child protection actors worked together to provide guidance and training to health and child protection staff to respond to the following seven scenarios in Quarantine Centres, Isolation Centres, and ITCs. In each health facility, several staff members were identified as "child carers" and trained to talk through care options with caregivers, provide care to UASC in health facilities, run PSS activities, and utilize child-friendly language to orient children to the facility. Ongoing mentoring sessions are provided to Child Carers to discuss sticking points and explore additional child protection topics.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- There was limited integration and coordination between sectors due to competing demands and time constraints which caused a delay in the drafting and endorsement of integrated guidance.
- Several key staff members are not in the country to provide support and training. Additionally, due to competing demands, Child Carers were only able to receive a one-day training which was overcome with additional mentoring sessions.

BANGLADESH: DESPERATE JOURNEYS WITH DWINDLING RIGHTS

Author: Gawher Nayeem Wahra

Organisation: Foundation for Disaster Forum

Key Words: refugees; adolescents; policy

Background:

The brutal military crackdown in Myanmar in August 2017 triggered the ethnic Myanmar nationals' desperate journey for their lives. Since then, more than one million Myanmar nationals live in camps in Bangladesh. By October 2017, around 54% of the total refugee population was children, with many being separated or unaccompanied adolescent girls and children. Humanitarian agencies started adolescent centres to engage the youth and adolescents with some recreational activities, and gradually they found some meaning as NGOs started recruiting them to work as volunteers. However, the Government of Bangladesh enforced a nationwide lockdown on 26 March to control the spread of the disease, forcing Aid organizations to slash their camp presence by 80%. As a result, most of the youth and adolescent refugees lost their jobs when they needed them the most.

Type of Activity:

With the closure of normal activities and youth's refused contribution in camps, adolescents and youth became more frustrated and started feeling like they no longer had a purpose or a future. The closure of education access, even the formal refugee managed education following the Myanmar curriculum, virtually left children without options. In the absence of health and hygiene communicators and public health volunteers, refugees have not had access to accurate information on COVID-19. As a result, around five thousand youth tried to go to Malaysia and Indonesia by boat. Tragically, approximately 500 hundred youth died on their journey, and those that did survive were prevented from landing upon arrival.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Challenges included a lack of accurate information and follow-up with adolescents/youth
- Vulnerable groups should be consulted on any policy change affecting their lives, which contributes to protecting their best interest. Advocacy is needed to reverse the existing policy if it does not involve youth.

BANGLADESH: ADVOCACY AND ACTIVATION OF VIRTUAL COURTS – STEPS FOR MINIMIZING CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PERSONAL LIBERTY FROM THE OVERCROWDED DETENTION CENTRES

Author: Shabnaaz Zahereen

Organisation: UNICEF Bangladesh

Key Words: children in conflict with the law; online tools; capacity-building; advocacy

Background:

The Children Act 2013 provides separate care and treatment procedures for children in conflict and in contact with the law, which is distinctive from, and different than, the criminal justice system. It emphasizes the application of non-custodial measures by police and children courts, which includes release after due admonition, diversion, bail from police stations (as well as dispute resolution), bail, and diversion from the court. Institutionalization is considered a last resort requiring only the shortest possible time. Currently, thousands of children are languishing in the centres as they are pre- or undergoing trial, which is almost double the approved institution capacity. Due to court closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, the institutionalization of children in conflict and contact with the law has become a great concern. The overcrowding of institutional care facilities, including Child Development Centres, and inadequate nutrition and healthcare has created a favourable environment for the spread of diseases like COVID-19. Outbreaks of COVID-19 appear to be exacerbated at any time in these centres.

Type of Activity:

UNICEF has engaged in several activities in Bangladesh, including 1, high-level advocacy with government counterparts; 2, institutional capacity-building in terms of skill development and providing supplies to equip the children courts to operate virtually; 3, strengthening social services and community–based protection mechanisms; and 5, building families' resilience to minimize shock, and developing family-based care to prevent reoffending and ensuring the welfare of the children.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The absence of a virtual infrastructure within the judicial system was a great challenge, as well as the lacking digital skills of judges, lawyers, social services, and police
- There was no law regarding conducting virtual proceedings in the justice system which also delayed emergency intervention

CAMBODIA: ADAPTATION AND PROVISION OF MULTI-TIERED MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT TO CHILDREN, PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, AND FRONTLINE WORKERS DURING COVID-19

Author: Miho Yoshikawa

Organisation: UNICEF Cambodia

Key Words: mental health and psychosocial support; family support; parents and caretakers

Background:

Mental health and psychosocial distress are two of the potential secondary impacts of COVID-19, causing both immediate and long-term harm if not mitigated. As COVID-19 began to spread in Cambodia, the Government of Cambodia instituted containment measures, including the closure of schools, suspension of non-essential activities, and implementation of movement restrictions. These measures, combined with the widespread fear of the virus within local communities, impacted the ability of Government and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) social workers and child protection actors to effectively deliver crucial services to vulnerable children and families, including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

Type of Activity:

UNICEF Cambodia adapted current programming and established new partnerships to provide a tiered range of services including supportive messaging, family support for parenting, and one-on-one psychological support for parents and children requiring more intensive interventions. To provide direct MHPSS in the context where face-to-face service provision was largely suspended, UNICEF Cambodia established an innovative partnership with the NGO TPO, for the delivery of counselling services to children, parents, and caregivers by dedicated counsellors through phone hotlines and Facebook Messenger. UNICEF Cambodia also adapted the existing Positive Parenting Programme to promote mental health and well-being of children, parents, and caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the suspension of in-person positive parenting sessions.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- While there was an unprecedented need for MHPSS, COVID-19 containment measures (travel restrictions, quarantine, self-isolation), as well as the fear of the spread of the virus, made it difficult to reach those in need with face-to-face counselling services. It created the urgent need to adapt a new online and phone modality.

INDIA: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN DURING COVID-19

Author: Prabhat Kumar

Organisation: Save the Children India

Key Words: community-based activities; mental health and psychosocial support; remote response

Background:

Over the past three years, Save the Children has been working with the government of West Bengal and Jharkhand state on 'Strengthening Community-Based Protection Services for Children' under ICPS. Novel in its approach, the intervention focused on bridging the gap in ICPS to protect children at-risk/whose rights have been violated in a humanitarian crisis. The project areas selected are affected by frequent cyclones and civil unrest where children are highly vulnerable and/or survivors of multiple rights violations. COVID-19 has further exacerbated these protection risks including neglect, violence, and exploitation due to multiple socio-economic factors and suffering in families, with a predicted rise in child marriage, children dropping out of school, child labour, and sexual exploitation.

Type of Activity:

Given these exacerbated risks, the Community-Level Child Protection 'Cadre' was developed and accredited by CACHE to work directly with communities, ICPS structure, and statutory bodies to prevent abuse, as well as rehabilitate children found in harmful situations. Adapting to both the effects of humanitarian crisis and COVID-19, the Cadre successfully addressed the needs of 6,745 girls and boys in five project areas. Recognizing the urgent need for MHPSS services, Cadres have been trained on remote case management, tele-calling process, and Psychological First Aid. The Cadres are now reaching out to these children in inaccessible villages and visiting them to provide support, and are ensuring monitoring and follow-up.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Change in project management mode in Covid-19 has created challenges in dealing with children directly, timeliness, counselling services, etc.
- Remote Case Management is challenging due to its dependence on technology and a digital platform. With the help of SOP, we are promoting safe and localized practices.

INDIA: FAMILY-BASED CARE AND RELIEF SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

Author: Audria Choudhury

Organisation: Miracle Foundation

Key Words: case management; alternative care; remote response

Background:

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit India, several states mandated children in child care institutions (CCI) to be sent back to their families to avoid the risk of spreading infections in crowded settings. However, this created another risk for children who were sent home quickly without any proper preparation, and back to families suffering financial setbacks due to the pandemic on top of pre-existing hardships that landed children in CCIs. In total, 298 children from Miracle-mentored CCIs were sent back to their families during the lockdown. Despite the hurried nature of children moving back, the situation presented an opportunity to speed up placing children safely out of institutions and into family-based care options.

Type of Activity:

Miracle engaged in the following activities: 1, delivering relief packages that included necessities like rice, oil, milk, vegetables, soap, and other hygiene supplies to hundreds of families; 2, continuing to ensure the quality of care that children received in CCIs before COVID-19 by partnering with local service providers and developing guidelines to help adjust these services for remote delivery; 3, partnering with psychologists to address any existing mental health conditions or psychological distress due to the pandemic; 4, reaching out to education experts and looking for partners to provide education virtually so that children in CCIs and remote locations do not fall behind; and 5, prioritizing children for permanency planning, starting with those who have the greatest opportunity to stay in families based on prior assessments and interactions. Throughout all programs, we emphasize child and family participation, connecting with existing organizations, and engaging with government and community services to ensure sustainable change.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Difficulty reaching families for monitoring and assessments due to inconsistent internet/phone network or access to a phone
- Stretched bandwidth of CCI staff with sudden increase of workload due to lockdown
- We need to keep child and family participation at the forefront - make their voices heard at every step

MONGOLIA: MONGOLIA ADAPTS CHILD HELPLINE SERVICES TO COVID-19 CRISIS TO IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT CHILDREN AT RISK

Author: Amarbayasgalan Erdenebileg

Organisation: World Vision Mongolia

Key Words: helplines; mental health and psychosocial support; remote response

Background:

Since 2014, World Vision Mongolia, the Government Implementation Agency Authority for Family Children and Youth Development (AFCYD), and Mobicom Corporation joined efforts to support the Child Helpline 108, as part of strengthening the reporting and referral mechanisms in the country. The '108' Child Helpline is a free, easy-to-access, and confidential counselling and referral service for children and concerned adults in Mongolia. As a result of the lockdown, an estimated 903,000 children and adolescents were staying in their homes. Some were left in the care of their grandparents, siblings, or family friends, while others were locked alone in their homes without any proper meals for the entire day.

Type of Activity:

In May 2020, AFCYD and World Vision (WV) Mongolia agreed to expand the helpline with a 'chat-box' service, recognizing the need for adding such an option during the lockdown time of COVID-19. The 'chat-box' offers a wider range of counselling services and psychosocial support for children and caregivers during the challenging COVID-19 times. The use of a chat-box for counselling is unique: the chatter and counsellor interact simultaneously using computers and internet-based chat technology. The chatter is in control and experiences a high degree of anonymity: the communication is placeless, faceless, and voiceless. As of 20 July 2020, a total of 414 chatters in duplicated numbers connected to the chat-box counselling service.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Found a need to strengthen the capacity of the Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) in case management
- Poor resolution of cases due to lack of parental support/involvement in children's development/growth

PHILIPPINES: THE POWER OF JOINT ADVOCACY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN TIMES OF COVID-19

Author: Jezreel Hannah Domingo

Organisation: World Vision

Key Words: violence against children; capacity-building; advocacy

Background:

Before COVID-19, violence against children already existed in the Philippines, with a National Baseline Study on Violence against Children showing that 80% of Filipino children have experienced physical, sexual, and psychological violence in the home, at school, in relationships, and in the workplace. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the government has imposed a curfew and quarantine rules to limit the spread of the virus, putting children at greater risk to experience (further) abuse, neglect, and or exploitation. The prevention measures, coupled with the negative impact associated with the pandemic, can exacerbate the risks of violence and bring unintended and hidden consequences to children, especially the most vulnerable.

Type of Activity:

Since the onset of COVID-19 in the Philippines, World Vision has been working with the government and other actors to prioritize the needs of children. Our active engagement with Philippine Joining Forces, the National Child Protection Working Group, and other civil society coalitions has led to the government to instituting policies and measures to protect children, including 1, adapting a Health and Child Protection Referral Pathway for COVID-19; 2, issuing policy advisory for the activation of local councils for the protection of children during COVID-19; and 3, joint advocacy statements, press releases, and position statements that addressed violence prevention, particularly online sexual exploitation, and the prevention of physical and sexual abuse at home.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- There is a need to continuously equip formal and informal CP actors on their roles in identifying, reporting, and responding to cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation among children

EUROPE

ALBANIA: CASE MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AT RISK DURING A PANDEMIC

Author: Ina Verzivolli

Organisation: UNICEF Albania

Key Words: capacity-building; advocacy; guidelines; remote response
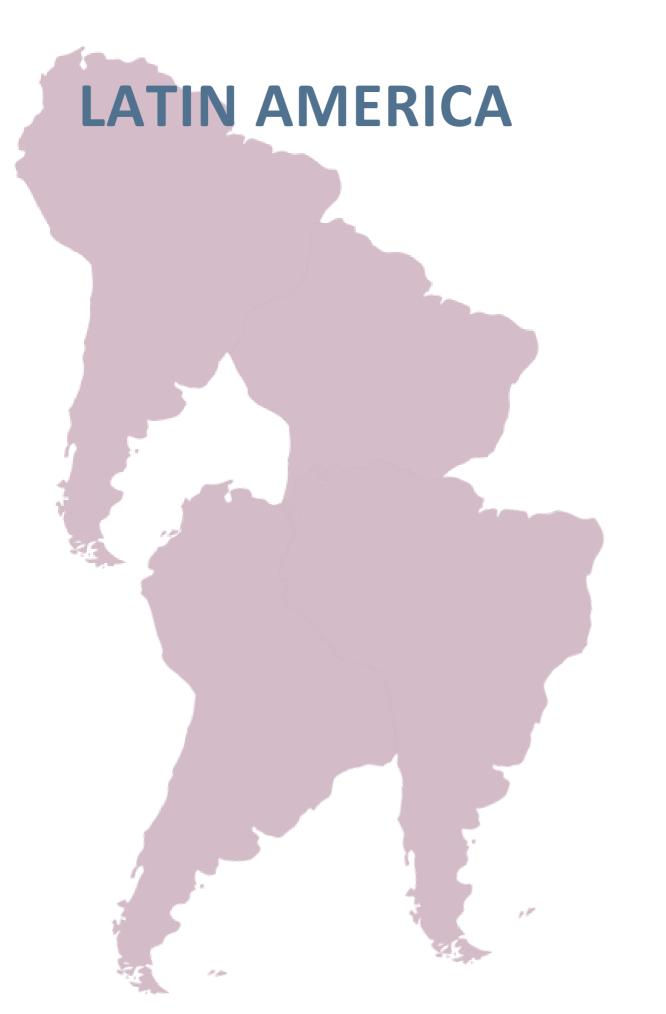
Background:

Albania has been hit by two emergencies in the past year: the 2019 earthquake(s) and the COVID-19 pandemic. While the wider population faces a range of physical, financial, emotional, and environmental burdens, the Rapid Assessment Report from World Vision Albania and Kosovo found that children are perceived as the most vulnerable group. However, in the initial stages of the response to COVID-19, the child protection workforce was not recognized as an essential workforce. This downplayed and significantly limited their access to resources and personal protective equipment (PPE). Many of these workers were either not trained or experienced enough to work in the context of pandemic threats. The lack of clear instruction on how to manage the new cases of children affected by violence, neglect or abuse, or those without parental care made things even more complicated.

Type of Activity:

UNICEF Albania has engaged in the following activities: 1, created specific guidelines on child protection measures and case management during COVID-19 that have been developed and adopted by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection; 2, created an accountability system to make sure that the guidance is implemented; and 3, created an enabling system to make sure that there are competencies in place to implement the guidance with quality. The CPiE WG members have supported the effective implementation of the guidelines through different interventions, such as engaging additional child protection workforce through on-call mobile teams and strengthening the capacities of child protection workforce through online capacity building activities.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Challenges persist in terms of actors effectively understanding the instructions, compliance by the designated professionals, monitoring of the implementation, and clear data on case management during COVID-19
- Additional advocacy is necessary to ensure effective and timely implementation of such guidelines

LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA: STRENGTHENING MUNICIPAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS DURING COVID-19 IN BOLIVIA

Author: Pilar Arispe

Organisation: Plan International

Key Words: violence against children; gender-based violence; capacity-building

Background:

In Bolivia, the first two cases of COVID-19 were recorded in March 2020. The Government suspended schools and declared a health emergency with a rigid quarantine. Child Protection risks such as physical and emotional abuse, gender-based violence, psychosocial distress, and child labour have emerged and increased during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic and its control measures also limited access to municipal protection services and reporting cases of violence, particularly in rural and indigenous areas. Lack of transportation, telephones, and/or internet put girls, boys, and adolescents at greater risk of violence.

Type of Activity:

In this context, Plan International aimed to strengthen the municipal protection systems in coordination with local authorities. The assessment provided information on 1, types of violence against children, adolescents, and women during the quarantine. In two months, 3,734 cases of violence against children, and at least 3,629 cases of violence against women, were registered across the country; 2, needs of public servants who work in the municipal protection systems; 3, obstacles faced by public servants to manage and support cases of violence against children, adolescents, and women. Evidence and advocacy efforts materialized in specific Protection actions such as remote capacity-building and distribution of materials (i.e. gloves, masks) to 100 municipalities. An online, government-certified training program of five COVID-19 and Protection modules for Protection service providers across Bolivia was coordinated by Plan International Bolivia with the Vice Ministry of Equal Opportunities, UNICEF, World Vision, Action Aid, and Soluciones Prácticas.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- It was essential to identify weaknesses and areas to support to strengthen the formal and informal systems that protect children during and after COVID-19

BRAZIL: RAISING CHILDREN WITH TENDERNESS

Author: Luis Enrique Corzo

Organisation: World Vision Brazil

Key Words: parents and caretakers; mental health and psychosocial support; violence against children

Background:

Before the onset of COVID-19, World Vision Brazil has been implementing a regional child protection approach called "Crianza con Tenura" (Raising Children with Tenderness), which focuses on cultivating loving relationships between caregivers and children to reduce rates of violence against children in the home. In addition, it works with children that reported violence, bullying, and sexual abuse in school-based settings. Before the pandemic, World Vision Brazil contributed to the training of education professionals to create protection committees at school that are responsible for creating and implementing a violence prevention plan reinforcing the identification and reporting of child protection cases. As part of the Global World Vision COVID-19 Emergency Response, World Vision Brazil has the same goal in each country where the response takes place: To limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce its impact on vulnerable children and families.

Type of Activity:

World Vision Brazil has engaged in the following activities: 1, focusing on protection for children and adolescents; 2, strengthening the capacities of mothers, fathers, and caregivers to protect their children and adolescents; 3, providing psychosocial support for families; and 4, promoting access to online education.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Low access to the internet limited online activities and communication
- Low reporting culture against child violence and abuse present in Brazil
- Identified a need for the innovation of monitoring tools for child well-being and greater flexibility in operational strategies to reach children

COLUMBIA: THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

Author: Daniel Delgado and Pauline Ochoa

Organisation: World Vision Colombia

Key Words: education in emergencies; migrant children; evaluation

Background:

After identifying the first cases of COVID-19 in Colombia and taking preventive measures, such as long periods of quarantine, closure of educational institutions (both public and private), and the virtualization of education, children and adolescents have been exposed to situations of greater risk associated with their protection and development. Quantitative information told us that children are the most vulnerable during quarantine because of the loss of educational opportunities, which has both short- and long-term consequences.

Type of Activity:

As a humanitarian organization that focuses on child protection, we understand protection within a framework of guaranteed rights. Therefore, we chose to address our effort to reach children to guarantee their protection and education through our model "Education Cannot Wait." We adapted this education model to deliver home education for migrant and host communities' children in La Guajira and Cúcuta, Colombia. We adhere to the core elements of protection: prevention and response. As education is a fundamental right, we address the right of education as a preventive measure of protection under the COVID-19 restrictions. Our activities included: 1, carrying out 'Back to Learning' campaigns; 2, providing girls and boys with school supplies; 3, providing teachers with recreational and educational materials; and 4, providing teachers with training on the identification and prevention of, and response to, sexual and gender violence, as well as xenophobia online.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Budget limitations made it difficult to reach more families and children with our actions.
- It is important to accompany all the protection efforts with more holistic approaches to help homes and communities be prepared and ready to respond in case of infectious diseases.

MEXICO: PRIMEROS AUXILIOS PSICOLÓGICOS PARA LAS PROFESORAS Y DIRECTORAS DE LAS ESCUELAS PRIMARIAS DE LA COL. SAN FELIPE DE JESÚS: UNA PROPUESTA PARA ATENDER LA AFECTACIÓN PSICOSOCIAL Y PSICOEMOCIONAL EN EL REGRESO A CLASES, DURANTE LA EMERGENCIA SANITARIA (SPANISH)

Author: López López y Monserrat Maritza

Organisation: Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Ciudad de México

Key Words: mental health and psychosocial support; education in emergencies; health

Background:

El proyecto aborda el contexto donde el desempeño docente está dirigido a la población menor de dieciocho años, definida como de atención prioritaria en la Constitución Política de la Ciudad de México, en un área geográfica transformada por el alto nivel de delincuencia, lo que provoca que niñas y niños posiblemente se encuentren expuestos a la violencia estructural y familiar.

Type of Activity:

Consiste en talleres de dos horas y media, que precisan el marco jurídico de la responsabilidad de garantizar los derechos de niñas y niños en un espacio de paz y tranquilidad emocional, promoviendo el bienestar psicosocial y psicoemocional de niñas y niños en el regreso a clase. Se les proporcionan a las profesoras las técnicas de manejo del estrés, para sí mismas y con adaptaciones para que puedan ser empleadas en niñas y niños.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Apoyo legal por orden o pólizas de autoridades que prioriza el desarrollo de maduración psicosocial, psicoemocional y expresión emotiva en contenidos educativos.
- Cultura machista que dificulta a los profesores varones que se sientan aptos para manejar los procesos emocionales y no todos asisten a los talleres

MEXICO: FORTALECIENDO A LA ADOLESCENCIA DEL ISTMO DE TEHUANTEPEC, OAXACA, MÉXICO A TRAVÉS DE LA EDUCACIÓN (SPANISH)

Author: Shoely Castillejos Toledo

Organisation: Fondazione AVSI

Key Words: online tools; adolescents; education in emergencies

Background:

La región del Istmo de Tehuantepec se ha visto afectada por el incremento en la delincuencia, conflictos sociales y por desastres naturales que han dejado vulnerable a la población. Un sector de profesores de la región acostumbra a suspender clases de manera frecuente por lo que los menores acceden a una educación interrumpida y rezagada. Desafortunadamente, esta situación contribuye a la integración de jóvenes a la delincuencia debido a la falta de oportunidades. AVSI implementa un proyecto denominado Fortalecimiento Educativo. El proyecto otorga acompañamiento a 100 familias istmeñas, para fortalecer el crecimiento humano y educativo del adolescente, además fomenta su vínculo familiar y social. El programa inició en julio de 2019 y concluye en julio de 2022.

Type of Activity:

Las actividades principales bajo este proyecto incluyen clases extraescolares para adolescentes, en el área de ciencias, medio ambiente, cambio climático, desarrollo sustentable, energía y formación humana; talleres dirigidos a padres de familia y visitas de los estudiantes a los laboratorios del Instituto de Energía de la Universidad del Istmo. En contingencia, también se llevan a cabo conferencias dirigidas a estudiantes sobre virus-bacterias y medidas de prevención con énfasis sobre el COVID-19, previo al aislamiento; el uso de métodos innovadores y herramientas digitales para continuar la escolarización y educación como por ejemplo, clases virtuales mediante la plataforma GoToMeeting y el envío, recepción de tareas vía WhatsApp y atención en resolución de dudas; llamadas telefónicas de acompañamiento para estudiantes que no pueden conectarse; y cuadernillo de actividades para estudiantes y padres que no pueden conectarse a una clase virtual.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Déficit de atención de los estudiantes en sus actividades escolares, debido a su colaboración en las actividades del hogar;
- Acompañar a todos los beneficiarios y proporcionarles la misma preparación académica por distintos mecanismos
- La presencia virtual y puntual del proyecto en la educación de los alumnos ha sido novedosa, ya que es lo más parecido a asistir a la escuela que los menores tienen actualmente

MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT: STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF CAREGIVERS IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY TO PROMOTE CHILD PROTECTION

Author: Noha Emam Hassanin

Organisation: Wataneya Society for the Development of Orphanages

Key Words: alternative care; capacity-building; parents and caretakers

Background:

Although institutional homes in Egypt are managed by civil society and supervised by the government, their management system and quality of care can vary from one place to another depending on the manager's background and beliefs. Institutional homes often do not have clear policies and procedures regarding child protection, caregivers lack fundamental knowledge and skills about child care and are incapable of responding to child abuse cases, and children are not aware of their rights, nor do they have the skills to report an incident. Therefore, unifying and standardizing the institutional care system was crucial. The Wataneya Society for the Development of Orphanages created a breakthrough in the field of alternative care by developing Quality Standards for Alternative Care for children and youth without parental care. At the beginning of April 2020, a few weeks after the initial COVID-19 outbreak in Egypt, Wataneya Society hosted an online forum which was attended by ten institutional homes to start the conversation on how to best respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and identify the needs of the institutional homes.

Type of Activity:

Wataneya Society's team partnered with experts in child protection and in child psychology to offer a series of interactive sessions to caregivers working in institutional homes. The training included seven sessions, conducted over two months, that covered topics related to children's behaviour management, crisis management inside institutional homes, providing emotional support to children, and keeping children safe online. Other activities included: online psychological support sessions, online child protection workshops, and activities to raise children's awareness about physical and sexual abuse.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- A main challenge during the online capacity-building was technical difficulties, such as unstable internet connection at some of the learner's locations
- Need to invest in offering asynchronous learning to avoid an unstable internet connection by pre-recording the sessions and including interactive spaces

JORDAN: PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

Author: Fausta Genovese

Organisation: AVSI Foundation

Key Words: education in emergencies; mental health and psychosocial support; helplines

Background:

After the outbreak of COVID-19, the Government of Jordan has applied strict restrictions to limit the spread of the virus. One of the first actions was the closure of the schools, which led children to lose their daily routine and stop their social interaction.

Type of Activity:

The AVSI Foundation engaged in several activities involving preparedness and response: 1, training of the Protection team on Child Protection policy and standards and Psychological First Aid; 2, staff then conducted psychological support through phone calls and AVSI hotlines; 3, awareness-raising was conducted through WhatsApp or phone calls to share COVID-19 related information, health measures, and decisions taken by the Government of Jordan in the attempt to limit the increase of cases.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Due to internet accessibility, most of the materials were revised to limit the amount of data needed when beneficiaries receive them.
- In many vulnerable households, the male parent is normally the only person who has access to a mobile phone.

LEBANON: CHILD PROTECTION AND REMOTE INTERVENTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN LEBANON

Author: Mike Kirakossian

Organisation: World Vision Lebanon

Key Words: child well-being; refugees; caregivers; mental health and psychosocial support

Background:

The pandemic has profoundly affected children's well-being in Lebanon. A representative survey of households with sponsored children found that nearly half of the children's parents lost their work and means of earning income. The COVID-19 crisis is worsening the situation of children in impoverished households, especially for refugee children, children working on the streets, and children in unstable family relationships. COVID-19 is also negatively affecting children's health and mental health due to restrictions on mobility and lockdown. The countrywide school closures have restricted learning opportunities for all 900,000 school-aged children in Lebanon. Most affected are the 630,000 school-aged Syrian refugees excluded from any form of virtual learning. Lastly, the effects of lockdown, including school closures and deteriorating household economies, have a detrimental impact on child safety, as domestic and gender-based violence rates increase.

Type of Activity:

World Vision Lebanon (WVL) developed "Activity Sheets" to reach children of all age groups and caregivers who were participating in WVL face-to-face programming before COVID-19. The activity sheets address key information on COVID-19, MHPSS, child protection, and stigma and discrimination during COVID-19. WVL has also established remote psychosocial support programming with caregivers. The technical unit developed 12 key messages covering important MHPSS, CP, GBV, and positive discipline topics where caregivers attend conference calls once per week. With the support of WVL, the scale of engagement among community-based groups has increased to ensure families remain engaged in child protection. These groups are focusing on reporting and referral, identifying needs, and leading on information dissemination and initiatives.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Beneficiaries' lack of technological literacy, poor internet connectivity, and electricity cuts limits the reach of remote-online services
- Building capacity of community members on CP issues, including early identification and safe referrals over longer periods is crucial to maintaining a sense of trust, community, and security during shocks and new emerging crises

LEBANON: PREVENTING ABUSE AT HOME DURING COVID-19 THROUGH AN INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

Author: Sara Valerio

Organisation: War Child Holland

Key Words: violence against children; parents and caretakers; remote response

Background:

Back to the Future Phase 2 (BTF2) is a 24-month project part of a five-year overall action that aims to increase the access of vulnerable girls and boys in marginalized communities to an integrated, quality education and protection services. The Project is implemented by the consortium of AVSI, Terre des Hommes Italy, and War Child Holland. The BTF Phase 1 piloted the integration of Education and Child Protection, while Phase 2 strengthens this holistic approach and integration by ensuring that child protection risks inform the design of this intervention and that protection vulnerabilities are included for reaching children out of school.

Type of Activity:

The Consortium has identified alternative remote learning and protection activities to continue supporting vulnerable children in Lebanon, building a continuity of care and protection in all stages of the crisis, and is in line with the ACPHA Technical Note on Protecting Children from Violence, Abuse and Neglect in the Home during COVID-19. These activities include: 1, providing access to positive parenting resources; 2, contributing to the design of a common set of competencies and implementing them over eight-weeks through WhatsApp groups; and 3, help children to re-establish a sense of their education routines through remote schooling.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- While the Consortium has managed to adapt M&E tools for the education activities, additional improvement to the remote setting needs to be further explored for PSS and CP awareness and information sharing sessions

SYRIA: BETWEEN WAR AND PANDEMIC: ACTIVATING THE AGENCY OF SYRIAN TEENS THROUGH A PARTICIPATORY STUDY OF RESOURCES AND NEEDS

Author: Maratha S. Bragin

Organisation: Silberman School of Social Work

Key Words: child participation; child well-being; children affected by armed conflict

Background:

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Hurras - Children's Child Protection Network had been planning to provide a way to engage vulnerable teens in Syrian conflict zones in a participatory study to determine their needs and resources to effect change. When COVID-19 interrupted these efforts, Hurras decided to switch to a pandemic focused short-term strategy, using the pandemic as a wedge for rapid entry.

Type of Activity:

The initial activity was an inquiry into the needs of adolescents with a plan to initiate projects based on the young people's responses. However, the youngsters indicated a strong desire to expand beyond COVID-19 to address ongoing urgent concerns. When the young people mentioned that the disease could not be their lone priority, or even their highest one given the ongoing violent conflict and accompanying adversities, both foci were included in the follow-up. The discussions and priority seeking groups became an activity in themselves, addressing silence, isolation, and alerting the teams to hidden risks to child well-being. This has continued to be true as COVID-19 contagion has increased in the region and complicates all aspects of life.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The armed conflict's erratic nature poses limitations and creates erratic availability of online platforms and access to basic needs, in addition to the political and social restraints that can be imposed on the population
- Another challenge was most of the participants' view that the dangers of the pandemic were secondary to the ongoing dangers associated with armed conflict

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA: LESSONS LEARNED

Author: Vanessa Milley

Organisation: Ontario Foster Family Advisory

Key Words: alternative care; foster families; social welfare

Background:

The onset of COVID-19 in Ontario began in early March, where foster families experienced a specific set of stressors, challenges, and complications. The children and youth in foster care continued to require a higher-than-average level of care from their foster parents, while school, medical, and physiological needs required an even greater level of commitment from foster parents. There was a recognition, early on, of the benefit of providing a format for foster families from a wide variety of fostering experiences and backgrounds to join together. The advisory brought together foster parents from the public and private sectors of child welfare, from two provincial foster parent groups, and those who are unaffiliated.

Type of Activity:

The Foster Family Advisory Group's goal was to bring together foster parents from across a wide variety of experiences, backgrounds, and affiliations. This project aimed to unify all our experiences for the benefit of the children and youth in our care. It focused on common challenges and collectively planning ways to communicate them to the Provincial Child Welfare Leadership, hoping to see the difficulties mitigated. The primary activities have been communication-based, with a focus on sharing one voice or perspective on how the decisions of the child welfare system at large may benefit children in the care of foster families.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The Provinces Child Welfare system is divided into Native and Non-Native, Private and Public, Distinct and non-Distinct, which naturally divides the foster parents
- Foster families are also challenged and limited by a cultural hierarchy that disempowers foster parents, as all foster parents are volunteers and the degree of equality within the individual Agency or Operator organization varies significantly

WORLDWIDE & OTHER REGIONS/COUNTRIES

WORLDWIDE: WORKING WELL: STAFF CARE AND WELL-BEING IN TRYING TIMES

Author: Anne-Sophie Lois and Melissa Pitotti

Organisation: Plan International

Key Words: staff care

Background:

The way we have been working during COVID-19 has introduced more stress to an already overworked and stressed group of professionals. As the boundaries between work and private life blur, many of us are struggling to meet all professional and personal obligations. We can lose sight of our own needs and feel guilty for how we allocate our time and manage expectations. We may also feel exhausted, overwhelmed, frustrated, isolated, and vulnerable.

Type of Activity:

This session will provide a much-needed opportunity to listen and reflect on what we're feeling and share learning and practices. Participants' awareness will be raised, and they will see they are not alone in their struggle, take away some helpful practices, and connect to opportunities to address this going forward. The session will consider both individual and institutional considerations of well-being. It will encourage participants to celebrate their resilience and consider potential opportunities for new ways of working.

WORLDWIDE: FAITH COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHILD PROTECTION IN COVID-19

Author: Andrea Kaufmann

Organisation: World Vision International

Key Words: community-based activities; resilience; religion

Background:

The essential contribution of local faith communities in supporting and protecting children during and after a public health crisis was documented during the West Africa Ebola crisis. As trusted local leaders with networks that can be reached through technology, including, radio, WhatsApp, and other virtual means, faith communities play an essential role in ensuring children remain healthy and protected during health crises. Historical scoping shows that faith leaders and faith communities play a critical role in providing spiritual and psychosocial support to families and caregivers as a source of resilience and strengthen the continuum of child protection support and care.

Type of Activity:

In COVID-19, local faith communities played an influential role in ensuring accurate health information was shared and responded to the indirect impacts on children by promoting the spiritual nurturing of children as a source of resilience. World Vision has been engaged in the following global programs: 1, the Venezuela emergency response is leveraging the Hope Network, a group of local churches, in order to reach the most vulnerable in hard-to-reach areas; 2, faith leaders trained in psychological first aid ensure children and their caregivers have vital support in a wide range of contexts including Indonesia, Ghana, and Venezuela; 3, faith communities and leaders are proactively communicating vital health messages virtually through WhatsApp, as well as exploring virtual monitoring and reporting of child protection concerns and incidents in South Africa.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Without accurate information and relationships of trust, faith leaders can promote harmful practices and/or encourage activities that do not align with WHO recommendations.
- Engaging faith leaders in a crisis is most effective if you already have deeply held relationships. When this is not the case, it takes time to build trust before working together.

WORLDWIDE: PROTECTING CHILDREN OVER THE PHONE DURING COVID-19: REDUCING VIOLENCE AT HOME THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED FAMILY MENTORING IN 30 COUNTRIES

Author: Kezia M'Clelland

Organisation: Viva

Key Words: violence against children; mental health and psychosocial support; poverty

Background:

Many factors come together to make violence in the home likely to increase during COVID-19, including the pressure to provide full-time childcare during lockdown, reduced access to social support and child protection services, mental health pressures, crowded and cramped living conditions, increased time spent online, and financial and food insecurity. While many great tools and resources have been produced for families and children during COVID-19, few of these are accessible in low-resource settings where families may not have access to the internet or may not take time to read printed materials given to them. This programme addresses a gap in current programming by enabling access to some of the most vulnerable families.

Type of Activity:

Viva's global team rapidly developed an eight-week phone-based mentoring programme, based on the evidence-based parenting materials produced by UNICEF, WHO, CDC, USAID, and End Violence and drew upon Viva's existing parenting and child protection programmes. So far, the programme has been used in ten countries and will reach 30 countries altogether in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Each mentor talks with an average of ten families through a focused conversation with one parent and one child in the family via six sessions delivered by phone call, online, or in-person where possible. The sessions are participatory and engaging and support proactive action for the family. Each session includes a visual 'poster' covering some of the week's themes, and a game or activity to do as a family. Mentors receive support through training, ongoing supervision, and appropriate safeguarding procedures to mitigate risks of one-to-one mentoring and support effective reporting of safeguarding issues.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The call log system has needed adaptation during the process, which has added complexity to the project but has been worth the ability to see real-time results and feed these back to participants.

WORLDWIDE: COVID-19 AND THE LOCALIZATION OF CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

Author: Mirette Hannahllah and Kate Butler

Organisation: The International Child Protection Network of Canada (ICPNC)

Key Words: localization; multi-sector; capacity-building

Background:

COVID-19 has created a new reality for the humanitarian sector, where travel restrictions and quarantine measures compelled international humanitarian organizations to rely almost completely on their local partners to carry out field operations. All while navigating different means of providing remote support and capacity-building through online platforms. These new modes of working created an opportunity to re-think issues of localization, systems building, and real and equitable partnerships. Real and equitable local partnerships that existed pre-COVID-19 paved the way for a successful child protection response during the pandemic, encouraging international organizations to explore investing more in localization and child protection systems strengthening.

Type of Activity:

The International Child Protection Network of Canada (ICPNC) worked alongside local partnerships with government and community actors in the child protection sector to carry out child protection interventions during COVID-19 in India, Indonesia, and Bolivia. These activities involved: 1, World Vision and Save the Children investing in strong partnerships with local governments in India, Indonesia, and Bolivia, and supporting the hotline to receive and respond to cases of child protection concerns; 2, building partnerships with local community actors to raise awareness on COVID-19 child protection related issues, and how different communication channels, such as radio stations and online dashboards and platforms, were used; and 3, engaging children and young people through universities and youth clubs in child protection campaigning and awareness.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Absence of technology infrastructure to facilitate remote access and collaboration
- To capitalize on strong and equitable local partnerships during the preparedness phase and to facilitate a successful and more coordinated response and recovery

WORLDWIDE: LOCALIZATION IN CHILD PROTECTION COORDINATION: SHIFTING NORMS AND FACING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN COVID-19 RESPONSES

Author: Susanna Davies

Organisation: Save the Children

Key Words: localization; capacity-building; remote response

Background:

Localization is a collective commitment to ensure humanitarian responses that are both "as local as possible and as international as necessary." Humanitarian coordination is an ideal place to strengthen localization and to influence structural change in the humanitarian system. Locally led and locally delivered responses offer the best opportunity to maximize the reach, quality, and sustainability of services for children and families. During 2019 and 2020, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, Save the Children, and Street Child UK have been working collaboratively to strengthen localization in child protection coordination groups in seven humanitarian responses.

Type of Activity:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, child protection coordination groups in all the target countries have had to shift their ways of working, with greater reliance on local and national NGOs to plan, implement, and coordinate the response. Both Save the Children and Street Child developed localization interventions collaboratively with the child protection coordination groups in the target contexts to increase resources available to local actors; invest in institutional and technical capacity strengthening of local actors involved in coordination; increase leadership, representation, and voice of local actors in governance, decision-making, and response planning; and support transitions to more local leadership arrangements in child protection coordination groups.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The availability of national cluster coordinators and in-country support has varied due to the complexities of coordinating emergencies, and the investment required to advance activities for localization.
- Technical and institutional capacity-building for national NGOs requires sustained partnership in which national NGOs themselves identify and prioritize their learning needs.

WORLDWIDE: CHILDREN'S HEALTH, LEARNING RIGHTS, AND PROTECTION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - A GLOBAL RESEARCH STUDY

Author: Victoria Whitaker

Organisation: Save the Children

Key Words: evaluation; mental health and psychosocial support; child well-being

Background:

COVID-19 has rapidly spread within and between countries across the globe. As such, governments worldwide have implemented measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. These include school closures, home isolation/quarantine, and community lockdown, all of which have secondary impacts on children and their families.

Type of Activity:

A global research study conducted by Save the Children in June-July 2020 is generating evidence on the impact of school closures, home isolation/quarantine, and community lockdown on children's health, learning, well-being, and protection. It is also looking at the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on households with children; the health, psychosocial, learning, and protection needs of children during times of school closures, home isolation/quarantine, and community lockdown; and children's right to information on COVID-19. Furthermore, the study explores the linkages between caregivers' perceived levels of psychosocial well-being and children's protection and well-being. The research explores differences in the impact and needs of children by country/state/city, age, gender, disability, type of minority group, and indicators of poverty and deprivation. The presentation related to this abstract would focus on the analysis of child protection responses across humanitarian contexts.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- As a snowball survey, the respondent sample will not be representative and will not be able to make inferences about wider populations
- The study looks at patterns of reported levels of psychosocial well-being and perceived changes in levels of violence in the home, rather than assessing individual measures of well-being through standardized psychometric tools or use of prevalence studies of violence.

WORLDWIDE: CHILD PROTECTION 'CATALOGUE OF INNOVATIONS' FROM COVID-19

Author: Victoria Whitaker

Organisation: Save the Children

Key Words: case management; mental health and psychosocial support; parents and caretakers

Background:

COVID-19 is creating serious long-term risks to children's protection, well-being, and healthy development. On top of this long-term risk to children's protection, the COVID-19 pandemic has required significant changes to our ways of working and programme implementation. As a result, new and creative methodologies for child protection programming continuity during COVID-19, as well as adaptations that are effective in ensuring the continuity of essential child protection services and support, have become an organizational imperative.

Type of Activity:

The programming approaches in the 'Catalogue of Innovations' will depend on what common innovations/lessons learned are identified and documented by Country Offices, although several expected areas of focus have been identified, including remote/adapted case management; remote/adapted 'Parenting Without Violence' support and programming; remote/adapted MHPSS support and programming; and cash and voucher assistance for child protection.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- It is too soon to identify challenges/limitations to this process and the development of 'Catalogue of Innovations,' but may end up include the inadequate collection of additional information to develop the 'Catalogue of Innovations,' particularly in terms of evidence of outcomes/impact

WORLDWIDE: #COVIDUNDER19: CO-CREATING WITH CHILDREN TO INFORM CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND PRACTICE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Author: Kirsten Hope

Organisation: Terre des hommes

Key Words: child-centred approach; child well-being; remote response

Background:

From the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, child-focused organisations were challenged with how to adapt child participation in the context of a global health emergency. For organisations operating across the international child protection landscape, initial reactions were informed by humanitarian instincts to quickly produce global guidance, advice, and recommendations to support frontline professionals in adapting their responses to child protection concerns during the pandemic. Apart from a few notable exceptions, these crucial and life-saving efforts were largely unable to involve children in the process of designing humanitarian responses. Consequently, these important resources were limited in their ability to account for and respond to children's views, perspectives, and lived experiences during the pandemic. In the moment of urgency, the rush to prioritize children's welfare and well-being inadvertently led children's right to be heard to fall off the radar.

Type of Activity:

The #CovidUnder19 initiative was launched by mobilizing a group of young people, child rights activists, civil society organisations, and UN stakeholders. By bringing together a broad coalition of actors, #CovidUnder19 set out to understand children's views and experiences about life during COVID-19 and amplify their voices to inform policymakers, professionals working with children, and governments. This process included: 1, integrating children and young people into working structures of the initiative; 2, involving children in the design of the survey, in data interpretation, and in formulating advocacy messages; and 3, overcoming the digital divide by supporting frontline protection workers to administer the survey to harder to reach children.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Brought insight to what the sector can do to improve child participation in child protection interventions during moments of crisis

WORLDWIDE: PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID FOR OUR VULNERABLE FAMILIES

Author: Chafica Abdou

Organisation: AVSI Foundation

Key Words: helplines; mental health and psychosocial support; violence against children

Background:

Finding ourselves unable to visit and see our vulnerable children and families due to COVID-19, AVSI had to discover a way to stay close to beneficiaries without being subject to the danger of contamination. As a result, two hotlines were made available to our families, managed by two psychologists, allowing them to talk about their difficulties and their anxieties.

Type of Activity:

At the beginning of April, AVSI set up a Call Centre that was accessible to all, free, and available from Monday to Friday. The purpose of this virtual service was to help our beneficiaries face the situation in which they were living in, promoting openness, patience, adaptability, responsibility, critical thinking, strong communication skills, and a caller-centred attitude. In the period of confinement, the risks of domestic violence and child abuse were increasing sharply, due to the impossibility to get a "breath of fresh air," work or play. In fact, in Lebanon, the Internal Security Forces indicated that hotline calls from female victims of domestic violence have practically doubled.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- We received calls for material help (monetary, medical, food) but we did not have the necessary resources to respond to these requests, which was complicated because we understood the request but did not have the means to support it.

WORLDWIDE: MHPSS INNOVATION RESPONDING TO CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS DURING COVID-19

Author: Leslie Snider

Organisation: MHPSS Collaborative (Save the Children)

Key Words: mental health and psychosocial support; remote response; advocacy

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic and its control measures have significantly impacted the mental health and psychosocial well-being of children and their caregivers, particularly those already vulnerable due to poverty and displacement. Physical distancing, social isolation from friends and extended family, loss of loved ones, increased violence at home, disruption to schooling, and concerns about the virus and its various impacts on families have created feelings of fear, worry, anger, frustration, sadness, uncertainty, and loss. Left unaddressed, these stressors place children and adolescents at risk of serious and potentially long-lasting psychological distress. As a result, the COVID-19 pandemic has put mental health in the spotlight, with leaders at the highest level calling for mental health to be "front and centre of every country's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic."

Type of Activity:

The MHPSS has engaged in the following activities: 1, resource development and dissemination with the CP AoR, the IASC MHPSS Reference Group, Global Education Cluster, and Save the Children; 2, coordination, together with UNICEF, and as chairs of the child and family subgroup of the IASC MHPSS Reference Group; and 3, advocacy on the importance of MHPSS in the COVID-19 pandemic response in various forums and more effectively linking/mainstreaming MHPSS service delivery across CP, education, and health sectors.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Emerging issues such as prolonged school closures and stress for caregivers, the need for resources across the developmental spectrum for children and adolescents, the increase in reports of self-harm and suicidal ideation among children and adolescents unable to access safe spaces, and challenges for children in re-adapting back to school with continued uncertainties about the pandemic all required rapid, innovative responses by the MHPSS community and strong coordination

WORLDWIDE: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ADDRESSING THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF BOYS AND GIRLS BY ARMED FORCES OR ARMED GROUPS

Author: Christine McCormick

Organisation: Save the Children

Key Words: capacity-building; children affected by armed conflict; multi-sector

Background:

COVID-19 is a child protection crisis as much as it is a public health crisis, particularly for children in fragile and conflict-affected countries who are experiencing vulnerability to, and the effects of, COVID-19, and the impact of conflict. Save the Children's experience in conflict-affected countries, such as South Sudan, DRC, Colombia, and Yemen, shows how COVID-19 has increased challenges in addressing recruitment and use within the COVID-19 context; increased vulnerabilities for boys and girls due to the pandemic's impact in the immediate and longer-term; and created new challenges in releasing and reintegrating children.

Type of Activity:

Child Protection actors have been prompt in adapting the provision of essential child protection services to the context of COVID-19, adapting case management support, community-based interventions, MHPSS and integrated child protection, education, and health programmes. These activities include: 1, scaling up programming on integrated Cash and Child Protection and Social Behaviour Change interventions; 2, strengthening the monitoring and reporting of serious child rights violations, with recommendations being made to strengthen programming addressing recruitment and use of children; 3, prioritizing the principle of centrality and integration/collaboration between sectors; and 4, placing greater attention on the capacity-building of agency staff, local partners, government agencies, local communities, and children.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Challenged by the level of inclusion of child protection and focus on addressing grave violations within programme opportunities
- Found low levels of funding available for child protection/CAAC programming, as well as the difficulty continuing commitment to addressing recruitment and use and grave violations

WORLDWIDE: MOVING DYNAMIC FACE-TO-FACE ADOLESCENT CLUB LEADER TRAINING TO ONLINE BLENDED LEARNING: LESSONS AND FEEDBACK FROM THE FIELD

Author: Julia Smith-Brake

Organisation: World Vision International

Key Words: adolescents; online tools; remote response

Background:

The IMPACT+ Club project model is an integrated life skills approach to adolescent engagement that addresses key sectoral issues facing adolescents in a holistic way. The goal of this Positive Youth Development model is to ensure adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, transition well into adulthood as active citizens empowered with competencies, values, confidence, and social connectedness. The model was developed with World Vision's partner, New Horizons Foundation, and is being scaled up across the World Vision partnership, moving from IMPACT clubs in eight Field Offices to the updated model IMPACT+ in at least eight new Field Offices this fiscal year.

Type of Activity:

The usual rollout of IMPACT+ includes a rigorous five-day in-person training of club leaders by certified IMPACT trainers, where trainers have usually travelled internationally to the Field Office and work directly with club leaders. However, the travel and physical distancing restrictions in place across the globe led World Vision to seriously reconsider how this club leader training could be implemented. Rather than go from a fully in-person, interactive, participatory training workshop to a fully online, self-paced training, World Vision technical specialists worked with Field Offices to develop training content into a blended learning package. This learning package would be implemented in virtual and asynchronous sessions with smaller remote working groups to practice facilitation and simulate activities. It would also provide regular live feedback sessions to answer questions and prepare for club openings.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The training package process tried to consider various contexts and their needs, but it is ultimately up to each Field Office to decide how to utilize the leader training blended learning package

WORLDWIDE: IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON WORKING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Author: Anne Jacob

Organisation: Kindernothilfe (Help for Children in Need)

Key Words: child labour; child-centred approach; evaluation

Background:

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kindernothilfe has conducted a participatory research study with a vulnerable group of working children to understand the direct impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. The research focus on working children's perspectives is particular but necessary to obtain further understanding of new child protection risk factors and their impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Type of Activity:

Kindernothilfe engaged in self-conducted, child-friendly consultations with almost 50 girls and boys in six countries during the COVID-19 lockdowns to better understand risk factors to their protection and well-being, as well as an exploratory assessment of possible protection factors to enhance child well-being.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The explorative study was held under lockdown conditions and had a small scope of participants due to the enormous challenges in reaching the target group.
- As a vulnerable group, working children face challenges related to the loss of income, where economic loss has severely impacted children's access to education, increased food insecurity, and greatly increased psychological distress.

WORLDWIDE: DOES A MOBILE PHONE SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES?

Author: Nawjeet Karmacharya

Organisation: War Child UK

Key Words: multi-sector; child well-being; remote response; displacement

Background:

Economic uncertainty, civil unrest, and disaster are linked to many risk factors for increased violence against children. The COVID-19 pandemic is no exception, with the infectious disease outbreak resulting in multiple challenges to protect children. WCUK seeks to address these challenges through its holistic COVID-19 response which aims to provide protection services and remote support to children in need during this "crisis within a crisis" situation. WCUK has made it a priority in its programmes to offer an integrated holistic approach by using Information and Communications Technology, combining Child Protection, GBV, and Education, and working with children and with families as a whole.

Type of Activity:

WCUK is providing a range of activities addressing immediate needs of displaced populations in Iraq during the COVID-19 pandemic: 1, remote Psychosocial Support through WhatsApp groups, including remote Education Activities, Early Childhood Development Home Packs, and General Education Home Packs; and 2, awareness-raising campaigns on COVID-19 delivered via social media platforms. Through these activities, children were supported to not only release their stress in online PSS sessions and sports activities but were also kept engaged in learning, facilitating a return to school later in the year. The material provided in the Home Packs was designed in a simplified way, which enabled caregivers and facilitators to easily organize activities with their children.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Access to ICT/internet was a hindrance to providing remote services to the beneficiaries. Some caregivers were not able to purchase the internet services for their children and most of them are not very familiar with social media.

WORLDWIDE: CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS DURING COVID-19

Author: Lucia Castelli

Organisation: AVSI Foundation

Key Words: resilience; parents and caretakers; remote response; online tools

Background:

Quarantine measures such as school closures and restrictions on movements disrupt children's routine and social support while also placing new stressors on parents and caregivers who may have to find new childcare options. Children and families who are already vulnerable due to socio-economic exclusion, or those who live in overcrowded settings, are, particularly at risk.

Type of Activity:

To increase our efforts in supporting the health and development of our most vulnerable children and their families by reconciling both supportive relationships and social distancing, AVSI has engaged in the following activities: 1, training of local staff on the procedures was adopted to limit the risk of COVID-19 infection; 2, training of local staff on art therapy as a tool to develop resilience in kids; 3, distribution of hygiene kits, when possible, and information messages through cars equipped with microphone and speakers or through voice messages via WhatsApp, or posters and flyers; 4, distribution of a Creative kit containing stationery and activity books; and 5, organized a call centre as psychological first aid to support caregivers to understand and manage behavioural changes that children can have.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- It is important to reach all beneficiaries, even when technology tools are not available, and ensure the continuity of activities
- In order to produce a fast and effective response in emergency situations, teamwork and network are essential to allow functioning of responsive actions

WORLDWIDE: FEAR AND ISOLATION: THE COMPOUND IMPACT OF WAR AND EPIDEMIC ON CHILDREN IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED SETTINGS

Author: Erica Hall

Organisation: World Vision UK

Key Words: children affected by armed conflict; child well-being; conflict sensitive education

Background:

Children living in conflict zones already face significant challenges to their protection, education, and well-being. When these areas are additionally affected by health epidemics, like COVID-19, World Vision research has shown that the impacts and protection risks are exponentially compounded and must therefore be addressed in a holistic conflict-sensitive manner. Building on our findings from the Ebola epidemic in North Kivu, DRC in 2019, World Vision is examining the impacts of COVID-19 on conflict-affected children in DRC, South Sudan, and Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Type of Activity:

World Vision UK has engaged in these subsequent activities: 1, research with children to identify previous and current concerns, where the assessment process should focus on what children themselves are feeling and seeing – through focus groups and interviews with girls and boys, both directly affected by the epidemic; 2, analysis of the findings and identification of child-led priorities for integration into programming, with research being conducted across multiple countries – including DRC, South Sudan, and Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar); 3, application of conflict-sensitive approach to child protection programming and advocacy during epidemics and informing global advocacy strategies and programming recommendations for the protection of children affected by both armed conflict and health epidemics.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Creating space for children in conflict settings to articulate their fears and concerns in the face of an additional (epidemic-related) crisis
- Developing advocacy messaging on the compounded impacts of armed conflict and epidemics on children
- Developing recommendations for the inclusion of MHPSS programming in an epidemic response

WORLDWIDE: ANALYSIS DESIGN AND PLANNING TOOLKIT FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Author: Aimylee Gabriel and Pia Vraalsen

Organisation: World Vision UK and Child Frontiers

Key Words: data analysis; multi-sector; online tools; child well-being

Background:

The unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many countries being unprepared and overwhelmed due to high caseloads and its multi-faceted impact on people's lives. Whilst children are not seen to be at a particularly high risk of the virus, evidence attests to the secondary impact on children. Child protection issues are complex and caused by multiple factors, requiring a multi-sectoral and holistic response. In order to design a contextually relevant programme for prevention and response to child protection issues, it is essential to understand the root causes and drivers of issues and their subsequent impact on children and families' well-being, as well as assess how the child protection system is positioned to respond. This is further re-iterated in the COVID-19 crises whereby understanding the multi-faceted and holistic approach to needs is imperative in the immediate and long-term implications of the pandemic.

Type of Activity:

World Vision UK, in partnership with Child Frontiers, have designed the Analysis, Design, and Planning Tool for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPHA ADAPT) specifically for use in humanitarian action to assist with the identification, prioritisation, and analysis of child protection issues in order to inform programme design and adaptation. The CPHA ADAPT combines both national and local level context analysis to prioritise the child protection issues and understand root causes, as well as establish the strengths and gaps of the child protection system in responding to the outbreak/crisis. Whilst the analysis takes a CP lens, the findings have been found to be useful in taking a broader multi-faceted and holistic approach to addressing child protection needs including health, education, social protection etc. – which are all the more important in addressing the current COVID 19 crises.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The tool is not always applicable for use in all rapid onset emergency contexts, rather, it is recommended to delve deeper into CP needs and further assess the ability of the child protection system to respond (both formal and informal and convergence of sectors).

WORLDWIDE: USING ILLUSTRATIONS TO TACKLE CHILD PROTECTION TOPICS: THE CPMS AS A CASE STUDY

Author: Joanna Wedge

Organisation: The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action CPMS Working Group

Key Words: child protection minimum standards; online tools; awareness materials

Background:

The latest edition of the CPMS was launched in 2019. Over the past 12 months, the Working Group has supported the development of three packages of illustrations (from a range of contexts) that highlight different standards; their purpose is to engage community members in the common protection of children.

Type of Activity:

The illustrations can be made into posters or included in social media posts thereby keeping communication channels open during periods of social isolation.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Our proposal is to create a narrated, visual gallery of all the images as our pre-session recording (using ISUU as the platform). And then have one representative from each setting (Bangladesh, Middle East, Lake Chad Basin), plus a Communications for Development specialist animate a discussion with the audience

WORLDWIDE: BUILDING RESILIENCE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DURING COVID-19

Author: Deepesh Thakur

Organisation: World Vision International

Key Words: child perspectives; resilience; advocacy

Background:

World Vision does not only view children as recipients and beneficiaries of aid, but also as active, social actors who are capable of interacting with others and shaping their environments. Creating spaces for child activism has a transformative impact on the children and young people involved and contributed to a better COVID-19 response. The child consultation project aims to explore children and young people's views and experiences related to the outbreak of COVID-19, including capturing their ideas on how to engage in online community-based activities to support their peers and communities.

Type of Activity:

The consultation methodology includes collaboration between adults and young leaders in collecting data from child participants. The consultation team includes adult professionals for each of the regions and several young researchers who interviewed children and young people over social media and messaging platforms. Each regional consultation includes around 50 to 100 children as respondents and uses online, one-to-one interviews (to respect social distancing measures) so that participants can share their personal knowledge, experiences, and attitudes.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Many challenges presented by engaging with children and young people remotely
- Given the sensitive and often hidden nature of the experiences of children, it is highly likely that children and young people sometimes do not to answer certain questions

WORLDWIDE: NOW IS THE TIME! JUSITCE FOR CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES

Author: Guillaume Landry and Marta Gil

Organisation: International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) and Terre des hommes Lausanne Foundation (Tdh)

Key Words: justice for children

Background:

While Standard 22 of the CPMS brought more in-depth perspective vis-à-vis relevance of tackling Justice for Children within humanitarian context, it is still a sector that remains overlooked. The Covid-19 pandemic has nevertheless put a strong focus as well as challenges on tailoring effective strategies for justice for children in emergencies, both from and individual/family and systems perspectives. Yet, several crucial elements remain unaddressed and require collective attention.

Type of Activity:

The IBCR and Tdh will bring alongside the presentation several relevant examples in different regions (MENA, Latin America, Africa, Europe, Asia), including best practices, activities carried out during the outbreak of the pandemic but also how those have influenced (and still) some positive shifting in justice for children in emergencies programming, including at the level/with governmental counterparts.

In addition, the two organizations, with the support of several child protection and justice actors (including from UN CRC Committee members), have led the development of three sets of clear, short and practical operational guidelines for key professionals who interact with children in conflict with the law: Social Workforce, Security Forces and Legal Professionals (https://justicewithchildren.org/advocacy/). The process and its operationalization will be presented.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- The presentation will be designed to highlight the challenges and limitations that the C-19 have brought up; some of them presenting innovative ways towards child justice reform.
- The presentation proposed will build the steps to collectively agree on the priorities on the justice for children sectors in emergencies to which an international focus should be put – particularly to those that remain "hidden". It will pave the way to re-shape with a much more operational perspective how to drive these interventions ensuring that the minimum standards are met in a comprehensive manner.

PHILIPPINES AND ZIMBABWE: THE IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 ON THE DRIVERS OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN EMERGENCIES

Author: Alexandra Shaphren

Organisation: Plan International

Key Words: early and child marriage; forced marriage; gender-based violence

Background:

Worldwide, more than one in three girls enters a union before the age of 15, with an estimated ten million girls married before the age of 18 each year. Child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM), including informal unions, has life-threatening effects on girls' health. It limits girls' economic, social, and psychological development and their access to education, protection, and sexual and reproductive health services, and can increase their isolation from society. Crises exacerbate pre-existing drivers of CEFM. A recent analysis from UNFPA suggests that public health restrictions, combined with disruption in services and economic consequences, could result in an additional 13 million child marriages that otherwise would not have occurred between 2020 and 2030. However, an evidence gap exists in understanding the decision-making pathways that lead to CEFM and what works to prevent and respond to CEFM during infectious disease outbreaks.

Type of Activity:

To fill this evidence gap, Plan International and the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) are adapting their research methods to gather this data, which will be used to inform a Program Model on CEFM in Humanitarian Settings that is inclusive of infectious disease outbreaks. Data collection is planned in three diverse humanitarian settings; to date, this has been completed in the Philippines and COVID-19 adaptations are under-development in Zimbabwe and one other refugee setting in East and Southern Africa. In the Philippines, the research team consulted with girls, their families, and stakeholders in their communities about what they need to prevent CEFM and respond to the needs of girls at risk and married girls using an innovative technology called SenseMaker.

Challenges/Lessons Learned:

- Data collection activities were delayed due to restricted access to communities
- Team interaction was limited to remote connection due to travel restrictions

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