



THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Annual Report

2018 - 2020



Core Members

AJEDI-Ka	Islamic Relief Worldwide
BIFERD	Plan International
Childfund International	Save the Children
CPC Learning Network	Terre des hommes
Danish Refugee Council	UNHCR
Hurras Network	UNICEF
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	War Child Holland
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	War Child UK
International Rescue Committee	World Vision International
	Observer Status: Child Protection Area of Responsibility

General Members:

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Action Chretienne pour la Paix et le Development (ACPD)	Centre for Coordination of Voluntary Works and Research (CECOWOR)
Action Contre la Faim	Cesvi
Advocacy for Child Relief	Child Helpline
African Child Policy Forum	Child Nepal
Alpha and Omega Reconciliation and Peace Building (AREPEB)	Child Safe Horizons Ltd.
Article iii Group	Child Watch
Association Communautaire pour la Promotion des Droits de l'Homme (ACPDH)	ChildFund Philippines
Association for Women's Promotion and Endogenous Development	Childhood without AIDS
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Bangladesh Youth Model	Children of One World
Bent AL-Rafedain Organization (BROB)	Concepts for Community Programmes
Bethany Christian Services Global	Convention pour le Développement et le bien être Social
Bank Information Center (BIC)	EFADA
Bioforce Institute	Elimu Mwangaza
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Buds of Christ Charitable Trust	Future Hopes Integrated Development Organization (FHIDO)
Cambodia ACTS	GAMMUN
CAN Pakistan	Global Partnership to End Violence against Children
Catholic Relief Services	Global Social Service Workforce
Center for Community Health and Development (CHAD)	

Alliance (GSSWA)	PACOPA : PARTENAIRES CONTRE LA PAUVRETE	SOS Children's Villages International
Hope Aid	Parent-Child Intervention Centre	Street Child
Hope Springs Haven	Partnership Network for Prevention (VAC)	Survivors Aid International Liberia (SAIL), Inc
International Association of Schools of Social Work	Peace Action Society Organization For Somalia PASOS	Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal
International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)	Peace One Day (POD MALI) (SGP support needed in future)	Tanzania Child and Youth Rescue Organisation - TCYRO
International Catholic Migration Commission	Promotion of Education Link Organization (PELO)	The Alternative Bridge to Development (ab2cd, Inc.)
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Proteknôn Foundation for Innovation and Learning (PFIL)	The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) - Observer Status	RedR Australia	The Organization for Children Harmony (TOCH)
Intersos	REPSSI Uganda	Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation
IsraAID	RET	TRIANGLE GENERATION HUMANITAIRE (TGH)
King's College	Refugee Welfare Association Cameroon (REWAC)	Union for the Promotion, the Defense of Human rights and the Environment (UPDDHE)
Kurdistan Save the Children Children's Fund	Right to Play International	United Citizens Child Support Organization Uganda (UCCSOU)
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Life Makers Meeting Place Organization (LMMPO)	Safe for childhood and development organization	Voice of Children (VOC)
Life Prospects Foundation-Yemen (LPF)	Sanjh Preet Organization	Women Vision
Lutheran World Federation	SAPI International-Savethepeople	Yes Theatre for Communication among Youth
New Hope New Winners Foundation	SEDHURO	Youth Alive Uganda
Nirengi Association	Society for the Protection and Assistance of Socially Disadvantaged Individuals (SPASDI)	Youth Association for Development (YAD)
Olympic Refuge Foundation	SONGSHOPTAQUE	
Organization of Environment and Children Rights Preservation (OECRP)		

Associate Members and other Contributors:

Elevate Children Funders Group	UK Government Department for International Development (DFID)
European Community Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO)	United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)
Global Affairs Canada	USAID Displaced Children and Orphans' Fund (DCOF)
Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergency	USAID Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
International Labour Office	
Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development	

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ACRONYMS:

AME WG	Assessment, Measurement and Evidence Working Group
AWG	Advocacy Working Group
CCP TF	Community-level Child Protection Task Force
CLTF	Child Labour Task Force
CM TF	Case Management Task Force
COVID-19	Coronavirus
CP	Child Protection
CP AoR	Child Protection Area of Responsibility
CPHA	Child Protection in Humanitarian Action
CPiE	Child Protection in Emergencies
CPIMS+	Child Protection Information Management System/Primero
CPMS	Child Protection Minimum Standards
CPMS WG	Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group
CTCP TF	Cash Transfer and Child Protection Task Force
EiE	Education in Emergencies
FSTF	Family Strengthening Task Force
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
INEE	Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies
IOM	International Organization for Migration
L&D WG	Learning and Development Working Group
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
QAF	Quality Assessment Framework
ToT	Training of Trainers
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UASC TF	Unaccompanied and Separated Children Task Force
UNHCR	United National High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

INTRODUCTION

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (the Alliance) in 2020 provided essential and transformative leadership in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic which plunged the world's most vulnerable children into a crisis of unprecedented scale and scope.

What began as a global public health emergency evolved rapidly into a child rights and gender equality crisis when widespread national lockdowns and school closures affecting 1.6 Billion children, combined with quarantine measures and movement restrictions severely limited access to essential services and protective systems. Children and families around the world, across countries and contexts, faced increasing and intensifying threats to their safety and wellbeing—including abuse, gender-based violence, exploitation, neglect, child recruitment, and separation from caregivers—not only because the virus, but also as a consequence of the social and economic shocks resulting from containment policies.

The Alliance, a global network of 150 operational agencies, academic institutions, policymakers, donors and practitioners, responded early and effectively to establish interagency understanding and build consensus around key strategic interventions. The development of technical guidance, advocacy materials, and best practices were instrumental in defining the child protection sector's COVID-19 response.

The work accomplished during the first two years of the 2018-2020 reporting period positioned the Alliance to respond decisively to COVID-19. In 2018 and 2019, the Alliance—through the Secretariat, four working groups and six task forces—delivered significant achievements against key objectives and priorities. Chief among them, updating the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and producing technical guidance, building capacity and learning among practitioners, expanding the evidence base, advocating for the essential integration of child protection in humanitarian response, and increasing collaboration through new partnerships, increased dialogue and an expanded membership base.

In 2020, drawing on the depth and breadth of its existing work, the Alliance advocated for and advanced practices and policies that keep children safe, demonstrating its ability to drive programming adaptations, innovations, and impact in real-time.

Balancing the priorities and objectives of the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan and corresponding 2018-2020 Work Plan in the face of the pandemic was, however, not without challenges. Some Work Plan activities and priorities were delayed or shifted due to the pandemic, but overall the Alliance was able to carry on without significant interruptions.

Now, as the Alliance approaches the five-year anniversary of its formation in November 2021 and moves to implement the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan and corresponding Work Plan, it is well poised to take the mission forward with a focus on **prevention, localization, cross-sectoral collaborations and accountability to children in humanitarian action**. We look forward to embarking on increased dialogue, engagement, and collaboration with members.

Who we are – Structure and Organisation

History

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action was formed in November 2016 out of the UNICEF-led Child Protection Working Group (CPWG). For ten years, the CPWG united NGOs, UN agencies, academics and donors into the global-level forum for child protection collaboration and coordination in humanitarian settings under the cluster system. In 2016, the CPWG divided into The Alliance and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR). The Alliance develops and promotes high-quality, effective standards and guidance for national and international actors working to protect children in humanitarian settings. The AoR remains in the cluster system under UNICEF's leadership and aims to ensure effective coordination of programs to protect children in conflict and crisis.

Every three years, the Alliance Steering Committee elects a member to assume co-leadership of the Alliance in partnership with UNICEF, which serves in a permanent co-lead role. Each co-lead appoints a senior child protection specialist to serve as co-coordinator. In January 2019, Plan International assumed the co-lead role, taking over from Save the Children. Plan's co-leadership will end in December 2021.

Mission

The Alliance envisions a world in which children are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence in humanitarian settings. In pursuit of this vision, the Alliance's mission is to support the efforts of humanitarian actors to achieve high-quality and effective child protection interventions in both refugee and non-refugee humanitarian contexts.

The Alliance facilitates inter-agency technical collaboration on child protection in all humanitarian contexts, developing and promoting high-quality standards and guidance for use by all national and international stakeholders. The Alliance's work falls into five categories and is carried out by the Secretariat, four working groups, and currently six task forces and 3 technical focal points.

- **Standard setting and guidance development:**
The Alliance develops standards for child protection in humanitarian action and generates technical guidelines and associated materials for use by humanitarian actors. It also promotes the integration of humanitarian standards and norms into practice and encourages efforts to learn from their use and improve upon them. The Alliance is the custodian of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, which is considered a companion to the Sphere standards.
- **Capacity building, learning and development:**
The Alliance develops technical capacity for child protection by identifying, expanding and strengthening the child protection in humanitarian action workforce; mapping capacity gaps; defining priorities and strategic direction in terms of capacity development; and providing learning opportunities, both face-to-face and remote.
- **Evidence and knowledge generation:**
The Alliance invests in generating, processing and disseminating robust evidence on the effectiveness of programmes and strategies in protecting children in humanitarian settings.
- **Advocacy:**
The Alliance engages in advocacy for child protection and its beneficiaries. This includes ensuring child protection needs are reflected in the global humanitarian architecture and associated processes.
- **Convening:**
The Alliance convenes humanitarian child protection actors working at local, national, regional and global levels to promote knowledge-sharing and technical collaboration.

Secretariat

The Alliance Secretariat implements the Alliance strategy; establishes and maintains strategic partnerships, including with other networks and sectors, as well as donors and policy makers; leads on knowledge management; manages membership; and implements the Secretariat work plan and supports implementation of Working Group and Task Force work plans, and oversees pilot-testing of tools and products. The Secretariat is responsible for general convening, including the Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Annual Meeting.

Working Groups and Task Forces

Working groups, task forces and technical focal points implement the Alliance workplan. They are led by members of the Alliance and supported by the Alliance coordinators. At the end of 2020, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action is composed of four working groups and six task forces.

Working groups within the Alliance

- [Advocacy Working Group](#) (AWG)
- [Assessment, Measurement and Evidence Working Group](#) (AME WG)
- [Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group](#) (CPMS WG)
- [Learning and Development Working Group](#) (L&D WG)

Task forces within the Alliance

- [Case Management Task Force](#) (CM TF)
- [Child Labour Task Force](#) (CLTF)
- [Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups](#) (CAAFAG TF)
- [Community Level Child Protection Task Force](#) (CCP TF)
- [Family Strengthening Task Force](#) (FSTF)
- [Unaccompanied and Separated Children Task Force](#) (UASC TF)
- Cash Transfer and Child Protection Task Force (ended in December 2020)

In addition to these working groups and task forces, [technical focal points](#) support specific areas of child protection in humanitarian action and help maintain linkages with other global bodies. Three of the technical focal points are in charge of ongoing initiatives: Prevention, EiE-CPHA, and COVID-19 initiatives.

Secretariat

During the 2018-2020 reporting period, the Secretariat delivered key strategic objectives and priorities set forth in the Strategic Plan and Work Plan, including ensuring 1) mechanisms are in place to foster integrative programming; 2) Alliance resources and programming are grounded in robust evidence; and 3) a diversity of local child protection actors drive and benefit from Alliance activities.

In pursuit of these goals, the Secretariat developed new and ongoing initiatives, continued to build evidence, tools and resources to inform programme design, and strengthened existing partnerships and relationships.

COVID-19 Response and Child Protection

In humanitarian crises and emergency settings, children are among the most vulnerable populations, at risk of extreme violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic and the policies and measures put in place to contain the virus compounded these risks. Millions of children worldwide suddenly faced intensifying threats, not only to their physical safety, but also to their mental health, overall wellbeing, and development. The Alliance acted early and swiftly.

In late February 2020, the Secretariat convened an inter-agency COVID-19 Task Team (TT). By early March, when the WHO declared it a pandemic, the Alliance was well on its way to produce its first technical note to support practitioners, policy makers and donors in continuing protective services for children amidst this unprecedented crisis. This was only the beginning of an extraordinarily challenging year, but also a year in which the Alliance achieved remarkable impact through the dissemination of technical guidance, capacity building resources and advocacy tools. Further, while overseeing and coordinating the Alliance's COVID-19 response, the Secretariat continued to make progress against the network's key objectives and routine responsibilities.

Drawing on the foundational standards and technical guidance already in place and informed by the evidence and lessons learned from previous emergencies and member expertise, the Alliance was well-positioned to respond to the immense challenges facing the sector as well as to provide humanitarian actors with quality programming adaptations, innovations and resources needed to adequately address heightened protection concerns.

On March 16, the Alliance released [*The Technical Note on the Protection of Children During the Coronavirus Pandemic*](#), developed through an interagency process, to support frontline child protection workers, policy makers, donors and organisations involved in designing interventions and implementing the response. The Technical Note outlined the potential child protection risks posed by COVID-19 and proposed programmatic options in line with the [*2019 Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*](#) and the [*Guidance Note: Protection of Children during Infectious Disease Outbreaks*](#).

A revised [*Version 2 of the Technical Note on the Protection of Children during the Coronavirus Pandemic*](#) was released in late May, reflecting the evolving and rapidly changing nature of the pandemic, and incorporating user comments and feedback from field-level practitioners. Version 1 of the Technical Note is available in 20 languages and Version 2 has been translated into five languages with languages more underway. The Technical Note and related Annexes have garnered more than 147,828 views on the Alliance website alone.

From the outset of the Alliance's COVID-19 response, an interagency Task Team was formed, under the direction of the Secretariat, to oversee the development and dissemination of additional guidance, advocacy material, best practices, and other technical tools and resources addressing a range of child protection risks and areas requiring multisectoral collaboration, as well as to drive sector wide ownership of these products. In addition to the Technical Note, which formed the foundation of the Alliance's COVID-19 response, 13 Annexes were produced and published in 2020:

1. [*Children, Isolation and Quarantine: Preventing Family Separation and Other Child Protection Considerations during the COVID-19 Pandemic*](#)
2. [*Social Protection and Child Protection: Working Together to Protect Children from the Impacts of COVID-19 and Beyond*](#)
3. [*Guidance for Alternative Care Provision During COVID-19*](#)
4. [*Weighing up the Risk: School Closure and Reopening Under COVID-19-When, Why, and What Impacts?*](#)
5. [*Technical Note: Adaptation of Child Protection Case Management to the COVID-19 Pandemic*](#)
6. [*Technical Note: Child Helplines and the Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic*](#)
7. [*Key Messages and Considerations for Programming for Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups*](#)
8. [*Working with Communities to Keep Children Safe*](#)
9. [*Technical Note: COVID-19 and Child Labour*](#)
10. [*COVID 19: Protecting Children from Violence, Abuse and Neglect in the Home*](#)
11. [*Social Service Workforce Safety and Wellness during the COVID-19 Response: Recommended Actions*](#)
12. [*Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Children and Alternative Care*](#)
13. [*Technical Note: COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Liberty*](#)

The Alliance not only provided critical guidance early on but advocated for collective action. As part of the initial guidance, the Alliance recommended that governments and protection authorities take concrete steps to ensure the protection of children is integral to all COVID-19 prevention and control measures. The Advocacy Working Group produced a complementary set of [*advocacy messages*](#) to support agency and country-specific advocacy efforts that prioritize child protection in COVID-19 response plans.

The Alliance also coordinated the development and release of an [*Open Letter*](#) from several leading child protection agencies, bringing attention to the unique risks facing children and the potentially devastating consequences if specific child protection provisions are not included. The June 2020 letter called on national governments and multilateral institutions to immediately strengthen child protection in COVID-19 response frameworks and to provide sufficient donor support to implement these responses effectively.

To promote the use of humanitarian standards in the COVID-19 response, the CPMS WG, together with the Humanitarian Standards Partnership, co-developed [*Applying Humanitarian Standards to fight COVID-19*](#), a technical briefing note which supported the application of the standards and strengthened quality responses during the pandemic.

Throughout 2020, the Alliance hosted 24 webinars in English, French, Arabic and Spanish, on COVID-19 and child protection reaching approximately 53,020 child protection practitioners, policy makers, government officials, and donors, through joining directly or viewing the edited videos afterwards. Edited videos are available on the [*Alliance YouTube channel*](#). Learning was also promoted through nine episodes of the Alliance's podcast [*Protected!*](#) and the launch of a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on program adaptation for keeping children safe during COVID-19.

To better understand the impact of COVID-19 on children and child protection, the Alliance has been collecting and synthesizing data and evidence since March 2020. This mapping of trends, realities and gaps not only looked at academic articles but also news reports and journal articles from around the world. The result has been a database of information and case studies and five

[*COVID-19 evidence synthesis reports on:*](#)

- Sexual and Gender-based Violence
- Child Labour
- Education
- Children's Participation
- Children Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and/or Forced Migrants

2018-2020 Key Alliance Achievements, Initiatives and Partnerships

CPHA-EiE Project & Advisory Group

The Alliance and the Inter-agency Network of Education in Emergencies (INEE) have been working together on a joint initiative to explore how, through a collaborative approach between the two sectors, improved protective and education outcomes can be achieved.

The Alliance and the INEE first came together in October 2018 in a joint Roundtable focused on addressing barriers to collaboration, which resulted in a set of recommendations. Ongoing conversations between the INEE and the Alliance ultimately led to the convening of an Advisory Group in April 2020 to lead the development of a position paper on the complementarity of the two sectors; develop a user-friendly programming framework for joint and integrated programming across Child Protection and Education in humanitarian settings; field-test the framework in diverse contexts and incorporate lessons learned into the material; and build on existing tools and materials, developing joint training materials for Child Protection and Education in Humanitarian Settings to increase linkages between sectors.

The results of the CPHA-EiE project have been fruitful, producing a number of resources under the guidance of the multi-agency Advisory Group, drawn from Alliance and INEE members. As well as developing a set of tangible resources, the project also supports the Alliance and INEE to work more closely by aligning similar initiatives, including competency frameworks, and ensuring products such as the COVID-19 technical notes are cross-reference both sectors.

The work of the CPHA-EiE Project & Advisory Group has resulted in the following achievements:

- Established a multi-agency cross-sector Advisory Group
- Completed a Desk Review and series of KII's which, along with consultations with INEE & Alliance Working Groups, contributed to the development of the CPHA-EiE Position Paper (Published in Q1 2021)
- Finalise the Competency Frame Annex, which is integrated into the [*Alliance Competency Framework*](#), and integrated into a re-launched [*INEE Competency Framework*](#)
- Developed a joint Alliance-INEE [*E-Learning module*](#) on cross sector collaboration, based on CPMS Standard 23. (Being finalised this week – already launched as part of the Alliance CPMS training)
- Focused attention of actors from both sectors on how to conceptualise and implement joint and integrated programming.
- Agreed the core components of the CPHA-EiE Collaboration Framework & Toolkit for practitioners - to be finalised in 2021 ready for piloting and ongoing development.

- Supported the development of COVID-19 technical guidance notes for INEE & the Alliance, ensuring they read-across to each other.
- Published the [Weighing Up the Risks policy paper](#) and [blog](#), with accompanying webinars in English and French, that contributed to changing the discourse on COVID-19 School Closures.
- Developed a research-evidence piece on the impact of school closures on education outcomes and child protection risks: [No Education, No Protection](#). (Published in Q1 2021). INEE and Alliance worked together on the CPHA-EIE Initiative and joined efforts to raise attention on the consequences of COVID-related school closure on the wellbeing of children.

Due to Covid-19, the Technical Focal Point was unable to travel. Any meetings, conferences or side-events had to be held virtually. Presentations were instead made as part of the INEE WG Meetings plus the Alliance Annual Meeting.

In 2021, the CPHA-EIE initiative will continue, focusing on the following activities:

- Continue to focus attention of actors from both sectors on how to conceptualize and implement joint and integrated programming.
- Finalize the CPHA-EIE Collaboration Framework & Toolkit for practitioners ready for piloting and ongoing development.
- Dissemination and uptake of the Toolkit
- Related L&D resources
- Support Phase 2 of the research-evidence piece on the impact of Covid-19 related school closures on education outcomes and child protection risks.

Prevention Initiative

While significant progress has been achieved in developing guidance and standards to support child protection actors in responding to harm in humanitarian crises, more work needs to be done to better understand the prevention aspects of child protection, including the risk factors that lead to harmful outcomes and the protective factors that help to outweigh them. Prevention plays a pivotal role in maintaining the well-being and is essential to realizing children's right to protection. Preventive strategies, practices, and policies need to be implemented to reduce and mitigate the harm before it occurs.

In 2020, the Secretariat launched a new Prevention Initiative. A multi-agency and multi-sectoral advisory group with 27 members including practitioners and academics was established to guide the work. The AME WG contributed to developing guidance on identifying risk and protective factors of the project, and the Prevention Focal Point worked on collecting evidence around programmatic approaches and promotion of prevention within the CPHA sector and throughout the Alliance. The Initiative links closely with wider child protection sector prevention work such as within the Global Partnership to End Violence and the INSPIRE strategies as well as concurrent development of a prevention framework within the gender-based violence sector.

In 2020, 5 major products have been produced under this initiative:

1. [*Understanding Risk and Protective Factors in Humanitarian Crises*](#). This report, and the desk review that informed its contents, explores the risk and protective factors that determine outcomes for children in humanitarian action. It recommends strengthening measurement approaches at the population-level as a first step in narrowing the prevention gap.
2. [*Evidence Brief: Why Identifying Risk and Protective Factors is a Critical Step in Prevention Programming and Implications for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*](#). This brief informs decisions related to data collection and evidence generation efforts on risk and protective factors at the population-level. It describes why a better understanding risk and protective factors within the humanitarian context is an essential step in prevention programming. It provides an overview of population-level data collection approaches, and examples of preventive programming approaches aimed at reaching sub-populations or groups of children, families, and community members.
3. The subsequent [*Identifying and Ranking Risk and Protective Factors: A Brief Guide*](#) provides guidance and tools to support child protection humanitarian practitioners to identify risk and protective factors to be addressed in prevention-focused programming.
4. *Identifying Risk and Protective Factors in the Context of the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict: Pilot Report*. This report details the pilot testing carried out in November and December 2020 and the findings from use of the tools to identify and rank risk and protective factors.
5. [*Prevention Framework: A Desk Review Synthesis*](#). This desk review maps evidence on primary prevention approaches and good practices on prevention from the child protection sector as well as other humanitarian sectors, such as education and gender-based violence. The desk review provides recommendations for the development of the Prevention Framework and was completed in end 2020.

The Prevention Initiative findings to date were as presented to the wider CPHA community during the marketplace of the 2020 CPHA Annual Meeting. The Prevention Initiative also led to the inclusion of a prevention lens in other key areas of work within the Alliance such as within the development of the Interagency Toolkit for Preventing and Responding to Child Labour and the 2nd edition of the CPMS.

The Prevention Initiative will continue to build upon these foundational works developed in 2020 with the development of a Prevention Framework and Prevention Position Paper in 2021.

Partnerships

The Secretariat, with support from the CPMS working group, worked with the Global Partnership to develop a joint paper on [*the complementary of the INSPIRE strategy and the 2019 Edition of the CPMS*](#). The Alliance continued its collaboration with key stakeholders such as the CP AoR, GPEVAC, INEE and others. Additionally, new collaborations were established during the COVID-19 crisis to respond to grave child protection concerns emerging from the consequences of the global pandemic. The Secretariat actively worked with key humanitarian and development actors such as the Better Care Network, Child Helpline, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the office of the SRSG on violence against children, the Global Social Services Workforce Alliance, and more. The Secretariat will continue to collaborate with these partners beyond COVID, looking at bridging the humanitarian-development divide.

In 2019, in an effort to shed light on funding gaps for child protection, the Alliance, together with Save the Children, UNHCR and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, published [*“Unprotected: Crisis in Humanitarian Funding for Child Protection”*](#) a report exposing shortfalls in humanitarian funding for child protection and calling for the mobilization of increased funds.

The study found that on average, a mere 0,5 % of total humanitarian funding is allocated to child protection activities even as the need for such funding continues to increase. The report called on donors to bolster the funding to child protection activities from 0,5 % to at least 4 % of total humanitarian funding to start closing this gap and also called on humanitarian actors to prioritize child protection activities in their funding requests and humanitarian appeals.

In 2020, the Secretariat and the Advocacy Working Group joined the same partners to publish a follow up report, [Still Unprotected: Humanitarian funding for Child Protection](#), providing an important updated picture of funding for child protection in humanitarian action in the face of COVID-19. The report shows a pattern of chronic underfunding of child protection, vast disparities in funding from one response to another and that the gap between needs identified and funds allocated grew at an alarming rate in 2020.

Finally, on the 20th of November 2020, the Secretariat led an inter-agency initiative with Plan International, UNICEF, BIFERD, UNHCR, Education Cannot Wait, the SRSG to end violence Against Children, GSSWF, MHPSS network and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and produce a [video to celebrate the UNCRC 31st anniversary](#) in times of COVID 19.

The new Strategic Plan process (postponed due to COVID) kicked off during the Annual Meeting in October 2020 and continued the first quarter of 2021.

Annual Convening

Each year, the Alliance convenes practitioners, academics, donors, and policy makers working on child protection in humanitarian action. The objective of this annual gathering is to share the latest learning and evidence; introduce recent standards and guidelines; and network with other colleagues working in the field. The Secretariat is responsible for organizing and executing the Annual Meeting.

In 2018, the Secretariat convened the annual gathering in Nairobi, Kenya on 17-19 October. Participants attended sessions on the Alliance's 2018-2020 strategic plan and work plan, evidence-based programming and localization, followed by two days of Working Group and Task Force meetings. Ninety participants from local, national, and international NGOs; UN Agencies; donors; academic partners; and independent consultants attended the 2018 Annual Meeting, representing 41 agencies and organisations, including 15 national organisations.

The Annual Meeting took place immediately following a [Roundtable](#) co-hosted by the Alliance and the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) also held in Nairobi. The Roundtable set in motion a joint initiative between the two networks to explore a common vision of child wellbeing and healthy development rooted in a collaborative and integrated approach between the child protection and education sectors.

In 2019, the Annual Meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland where attendees convened to discuss the Humanitarian-Development Nexus—the linkage between humanitarian action, sustainable development, and conflict prevention or peacebuilding. The opening speakers and keynotes panelists advocated for a holistic, child rights perspective across humanitarian and development contexts. More prevention-oriented solutions and sustainable outcomes can be achieved if sectors and agencies share a common vision and engage in joint data analysis, planning and programming.

The Background Paper: [Humanitarian-Development Nexus and Child Protection](#) invited participants to reflect on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats actors face when working within the nexus and presented key topics to consider when developing cohesive child protection partnerships.

Over 550 participants applied to attend the in-person meeting, but capacity was limited to 148 attendees. Attendees represented 54 agencies and 10 local and national organisations.

The meeting closed with the launch of the 2019 edition of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

In October 2020, the Alliance hosted its first virtual Annual Meeting dedicated to the topic of Infectious Disease Outbreak and the Protection of Children, drawing more than 450 individuals (466) from 90 countries, including 88 national and local actors.

Over the course of 5 half-days, meeting participants explored the lessons learnt, promising practices and innovative approaches to the protection of children amidst infectious disease outbreaks. The Annual Meeting Background Paper, [2.2 billion children: How do we ensure their protection and well-being amidst an infectious disease outbreak?](#) set the stage for presentations and robust discussions within the socio-ecological model.

While the conference was dedicated to infectious disease outbreaks and the protection of children, the meeting also served as an opportunity to show case the work of the Working Groups and Task Forces as well as to launch the process of the development of the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan. The online nature of the meeting implied the need for training key facilitators within the Alliance on how to plan and implement lively virtual sessions.

With the support of PRM and UNHCR, the Secretariat was able to hire an online event company to support the organization of the meeting, which resulted to having an exceptional high attendance of 466 participants from 90 countries, including 88 national and local actors. The online format of the Annual meeting offered greater opportunity to connect with colleagues at the field level—making it possible for some to attend who otherwise may not have been able to travel to an in-person conference due to prohibitive costs and logistics. The online format also facilitated opportunities to work in smaller groups during the sessions.

The Secretariat also worked with the Working Groups and Task Forces to prepare their sessions and led the call for and selection of abstracts to be presented during the meeting.

In parallel, and in collaboration with Elevate Children Funders Group (ECFG), supported by the US Government, End Violence Investors Forum and International Education Funders Group (IEFG), the Alliance coordinators prepared a donors' side event series to discuss issues around Child Protection in times of Infectious Disease Outbreaks.

Context and Challenges

The unprecedented COVID-19 crisis led the Alliance to shift and adapt its work in multiple ways. To better support CP practitioners in responding to the consequences of the COVID-19 related restrictions, the Alliance had to shift most of its attention to production and management of knowledge related to CP and COVID-19. Due to its agile structure, the Alliance was able to do this without any major repercussions for its regular work. A few of the changes that ensued are listed below:

- With the support of the Steering Committee, the Secretariat postponed the development of the 2021-2025 Strategic- and Work-Plans until fall of 2020.
- The Secretariat supported the Working Groups and Task Forces in developing a COVID-19 specific work-plan to respond to the humanitarian situation brought by the pandemic.
- Due to travel restrictions, the Alliance Secretariat engaged in more online activities such as regular webinars, podcasts as well as holding its first Annual Meeting virtually. The Secretariat had to re-think fully its approach and content format for the annual meeting to ensure that participants would be actively engaging and committing to the different sessions. The amount of work and resources required to achieve this was higher than anticipated, resulting in increased working hours and commitment from different Alliance members and the Secretariat key functions.

Despite having to adjust to working from home and handling personal/family matters at the same time, the Secretariat was able to continue its activities with minimal disruption.

2021 Priorities

The Alliance Secretariat will continue to support the work of the different Working Groups, Task Forces and initiatives, including the finalization and operationalization of the 2021-2023 work-plan. The Secretariat will remain actively involved in the Prevention and CP-EiE Initiatives. Finally, the Secretariat will support the ongoing work on **Infectious Disease outbreak and the protection of children**, including the updating of [*the Guidance Note on Child Protection and Infectious Disease Outbreaks*](#). The secretariat will continue supporting the current efforts towards localization and ensuring that national and local organizations have more opportunities to engage with and benefit from the work of the Alliance.

Furthermore, in 2021, the Alliance Secretariat will support and oversee the process of developing the Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 and its Work Plan. At the same time, the Secretariat will lead on a review of the Alliance Structure that would allow the network to remain relevant and efficient. Upon finalization, the coordinators will work closely with WG and TF leads, Alliance partners, as well as the Steering Committee members in implementing the 2021-2025 Strategic- and Work-Plan of the Alliance.

The Secretariat will support the organization of the 2021 Annual Meeting based on the learning of the successful online 2020 Annual Meeting and the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Annual Meeting may remain either fully virtual or the circumstances allow, a mixed format (face to face and online) may be implemented. The theme of the 2021 Annual Meeting will be chosen based on consultation with the CHPA community.

Membership

The Alliance membership has grown significantly in the last three years. A total of 94 applications were made for general membership in 2020, of which 33 were approved. The membership engagement focal point is currently working on the backlog, liaising with the applicant organizations, especially when applications are not fully complete.

Out of the 33 approved applications, 9 are INGOs. (5 from Europe, 3 from America and 1 from Oceania) while the rest are national/local organisations drawn from different regions of the world. A dozen organisations are from Africa, nine from Asia and one each from the Middle East, South America and the Caribbean.

In 2019, 15 new applications were approved, out of them, 9 NGOs and 6 INGOs.

In 2018, 60 applications were submitted, and the Alliance welcomed 39 new general members. Under the CPWG, only **5%** of the members were national and local organisations. Less than two years later, **55.6%** of Alliance general members were local and national organisations.

2021 Membership Priorities

- Collating Child Protection resources and making them more accessible to members
- Organize induction calls for new members in collaboration with Task Forces and Working groups
- Capacity sharing with members on Child Safeguarding Policy
- Facilitation of more engagements of members in Working Group and Task Forces and general Alliance activities
- Reach out to organisations from the regions of the world that are underrepresented in the Alliance

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT:

The Alliance's Knowledge Management Focal Point supports the creation and dissemination of robust, evidence-based information by managing the Alliance's website and social media presence and by facilitating the design and availability of user-friendly knowledge management products.

With the COVID-19 pandemic forcing the world to rely on technology and online communication more than ever before, the Alliance Website became an essential tool for child protection practitioners and field workers, seeing the number of users and page views double during the COVID-19 response.

Key Achievements

Therefore, in early 2020, the Alliance prioritized the development and launch of the [Technical Note: Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) and supporting inter-agency groups to develop [associated annexes and resources](#). The Alliance developed a total of fifteen [Technical Notes](#) related to Child Protection and COVID-19, receiving over 144,000+ views altogether.

The Alliance has since further developed its [COVID-19 and Child Protection Resource Hub](#) to include CP [webinar recordings](#), [podcasts](#), and [evidence briefs](#). The Alliance hosted a [series of webinars](#), receiving over 52,000+ views via Zoom, Facebook Live and the COVID-19 and CP YouTube Playlist. The Alliance produced a [COVID-19 and Child Protection Podcast series, Protected!](#), receiving over 3,400 listens on [Soundcloud](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), and [Google Play](#). The Alliance also produced a [series of evidence briefs](#) as a periodic digest of COVID-19 related resources and guidance, including five evidence briefs with approximately 2,900 views altogether.

With many resources now on the Alliance website concerning Child Protection and COVID-19, the website search function was further strengthened by employing a 'virtual assistant' or 'chatbot' pilot project called [Ask Hannah](#). Hannah provided curated responses to users' questions on protection children during the pandemic, where 80 per cent of users reporting Hannah helped them find the required information (Hannah is no longer live on the website).

Alliance Website

The Alliance Website is functional in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. Over the past year, traffic to the website has increased from 7,000+ monthly users to nearly 18,000+ users. During the height of the first wave of the pandemic, monthly users ranged from 23,000+ to 24,000+. In all, the Alliance counted 298,491 users from over 230 countries and territories.

The Alliance Website also hosts three new knowledge hub initiatives, created in collaboration with Alliance Task Forces. These knowledge hubs include: the [Strengthening Community-Level Approaches to Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) initiative, the [Unaccompanied and Separated Children Resources](#) initiative, and the [Inter-Agency Toolkit: Preventing and Responding to Child Labor in Humanitarian Action](#) initiative.

The Alliance also creates and distributes A Closer Look, the [Alliance's monthly newsletter](#) with over 6,000+ subscribers. The newsletter is available via the Alliance website and email delivery.

Social Media

Social Media is critical for ensuring that practitioners can access timely, relevant knowledge and technical material on emerging child protection concerns. The Alliance is active on three major social media platforms, including such as [Facebook](#) (13,912 followers), [Twitter](#) (2,302 followers), and [LinkedIn](#) (4,689 followers). The Alliance also maintains an [YouTube Channel](#) (1,270 subscribers).

Challenges

The global pandemic presented many challenges regarding the wide-range demand for Alliance products. However, before the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, KM has worked to address security concerns by maintaining daily and monthly security checks to ensure the website is not subject to spam and bots. This was especially important when the COVID-19 pandemic increased traffic to our website by more than double. With the unprecedented global nature of COVID-19, practitioners from all over the world were seeking guidance and support on how to continue to protect children in humanitarian settings while under various lockdown restrictions. The disruption of social services and limited in-person access to children and families left a need for creative and innovative adaptations to already existing child protection programs. There was also a significant need for resources to be shared efficiently and effectively with the ability to be adapted to different contexts. Meeting these needs was a challenge due the wide range of audiences and contexts the Alliance serves, as well as the various needs for adaptations in technical area of child protection, such as children deprived of their liberty and child labour.

2021 Priorities

For 2021, the Knowledge Management team will begin to carry-out of the Knowledge Management Strategy, based on learning from the past three years. Priorities within the strategy include re-vamping the Alliance website to make it more functional and user-friendly. In 2021, we hope to improve the usability of Alliance guidance and technical materials through appropriate formatting and contextual framing, and engaging Alliance members in the creation and implementation of Alliance products. Continued KM services include the daily maintenance of Alliance communication channels, supporting Alliance working groups/tasks forces with group/task force initiatives, and translating key Alliance products into French, Spanish, and Arabic. These efforts will contribute to the goal of making knowledge and technical material more accessible and useable for to child protection actors and practitioners.

WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES

The Alliance has four permanent work streams: 1) Standard setting and guidance development; 2) Capacity building, learning and development; 3) Evidence generation and knowledge management and 4) Advocacy. The four Working Groups correspond to the work streams and are reinforced by Task Forces that focus on specific, technical child protection issues.

Advocacy Working Group

The work of the Advocacy Working Group (AWG) focuses on ensuring that the best interests of children in humanitarian action are recognised by all national and international actors in humanitarian emergencies and are reflected across all response mechanisms, through rights-based and solutions-oriented engagements.

Since January 2020, the Advocacy Working Group (AWG) is co-led by ChildFund Alliance, Save the Children and Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal.¹ At the end of 2020, the AWG was composed of 21 members.² With the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for strong and quality advocacy has never been so important. The new leads of the AWG worked to bring the AWG members together to work on key tracks of work, to better position the Alliance as a major actor in the Child Protection Advocacy world. The foundation for a more robust advocacy group has been created as a platform for defining the role and scope of the group in a new Advocacy Strategy that will be drafted by the end of 2021.

Key Priorities

- Include Child Protection in Emergency concerns in major international fora and intergovernmental processes including the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR); the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM); the SDGs; and the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.
- Identify and map current obstacles and challenges to CPHA funding.
- Advocate for an increase in funding for Child Protection in Humanitarian Settings.
- Identify current, and promote systematic, reference to the CPMS in donor funding requirements.
- Improve understanding of CPHA and its lifesaving nature amongst humanitarian decision-makers and donors.
- Influence discourse on child rights and child protection in humanitarian settings.
- Support the global review of the CPMS.
- Support collective, cross-organisational action in response to major national, regional, and global threats to the wellbeing of children in situations of conflict, displacement, and migration.

¹ The AWG is the only and first Working Group which has a national organization as a co-lead

² ChildFund Alliance, Save the Children, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal, Child Frontiers, CPC Learning Network, Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, Hurras Child Protection Network, UNICEF, SRSG VAC Office, Plan International, Retrak, Terre des hommes, United Citizens Child Support Organization Uganda, War Child Holland, CP AoR, UNHCR, Global Partnership to End Violence Against children, Proteknôn, IOM & World Vision

Key Achievements 2018-2020

In 2018, the AWG responded to several time-sensitive issues, including the Solution Summit for Ending Violence Against Children, child detention along the southern US border, and the revision of the CPMS. To address and respond to these issues, and to raise awareness, the AWG developed a variety of briefs, guidance, and research.

Key Humanitarian Messages for Solution Summit: This document was produced to ensure that violence against children in humanitarian settings remained an integral part of the conversations and outcomes of the Solution Summit.

[Urgent Call: Recommendations for Reunification of Separated Children with their Families:](#) This call for urgent action asked US policy makers to rapidly reunify separated children with their families and end detention, in accordance with their best interests. Key recommendations included: Facilitate rapid family reunification; Provide mental health and psychosocial support to children and their families; Ensure that administrative and legal procedures meet their best interests; and Prevent further family separation by ending the use of detention.

[Urgent Call: Recommendations for Improving Interim Care for Separated Children:](#) This call was a follow-up to the Recommendations for Reunification and offered specific recommendations for interim care of children in accordance with the UN Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children.

In addition, in 2018 as part of the revision of the CPMS, the AWG participated in the revision of Standard 3: Communication, advocacy and media and updated CPMS indicators. The AWG also conducted a donor mapping exercise to determine the degree to which the CPMS is incorporated into funding requirements and strategies.

In 2019, the Alliance, Save the Children and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility published "[Unprotected.](#)" a report exposing chronic shortfalls in humanitarian funding even as needs rise. The report was officially launched at the Annual Meeting in Geneva. The event, jointly organised by the Alliance, Save the Children, and the CP AoR, was attended by 59 participants, including 18 representatives of permanent missions based in Geneva. The event was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Norway.

Following up on the 2018 recommendations on improving interim care for and reunification of separated children at the US-Mexico border, the AWG hosted researchers to present new findings on the situation of children and their psychosocial and medical needs. This also gave AWG members the opportunity to follow up on the recommendations and issue a reminder of the need to provide the children with appropriate care in order to prevent longer-term harm. In the end, the group did not pursue these recommendations.

With the support of Plan International, the Advocacy Working Group prepared a framing paper to help direct the discussion during the face-to-face meeting in October. The paper outlined the background and objectives of the AWG, providing a refresher for older members and an introduction for new ones. It also described the niche role of the group and the scope of possible advocacy activities.

Later in 2019, the Advocacy Working Group supported the organisation of a spotlight session at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum entitled, "Our Commitment for the 52%." This was the only spotlight session during the forum that focused on child rights and child protection. The Alliance spoke as a respondent from the floor during the spotlight on behalf of both INEE and the Alliance, focusing on the importance of a framework of collaboration between [child protection and education.](#)

In March 2020, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, some members of the Advocacy Working Group formed, under the leadership of Childfund Alliance, a sub-group named COVID-19 Advocacy Team (CAT). The purpose of this sub-group was to develop focused advocacy messages to be able to respond immediately to the impact of the pandemic on children and to coordinate critical advocacy messages, [summarized in this strategy](#).

On the 23 April 2020, the Alliance released its first [Advocacy Messages for Child Protection Actors: Prioritizing Child Protection in COVID-19 Response Plans](#).

The CAT-team supported the initiative of an Open Letter from International Civil Society Organizations and Child-Focused Agencies [COVID-19 and the impact of Pandemic Response Plans Threaten Immediate and long-term risks to public health and Child Protection](#), which was released on the 8th of June 2020.

The team continued its work with the publication of an [Advocacy Brief: Prioritizing the Safety of Children Online During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (17 of July 2020) and the organization of two webinars (in English and Spanish) on [The need for Governments to consult Child Protection Advisers when loosening COVID-19 lockdown restrictions](#) (21 and 23 of July 2020).

In fall 2020, it was decided that the CAT-team, a sub-group under the AWG, fulfilled its role and it was important to reconvene the whole AWG together.

The key achievement in 2020 was the launch of the report [Still Unprotected](#), a follow up to the 2019 Unprotected report. With the support of UNHCR and the CP AoR, the Alliance Advocacy Working Group, under the leadership of Save the Children, worked on the report related to the funding situation of the child protection sector. The report launch was organized on 26 October 2020 and attended by 342 participants. The recording of the launch can be found [here](#), and has been published on the [Alliance webpage here](#). A four-page summary of the report can be found [here](#).

The report included data on CP funding over time up until 2019, as well as some analysis of funding for Child Protection in 2020, with the impacts of COVID-19. Following wide and elaborate discussions, the report landed on concrete recommendations to the donor community, as well as the wider humanitarian community.

The report launch was followed by a consultation with key donors on the recommendations in the report on 10 December 2020, which discussed key issues and opportunities for securing funding for child protection and identified localization, integration of CP and more accurate needs assessments as key priorities.

Context and Challenges

Regarding the capacity of the AWG itself, co-leads have shifted or been absent for periods of time with competing priorities, especially at the onset of the COVID-19 when everyone was adjusting to the new way of living due to the restriction measures. In addition, memberships to a large extent have been fluid. This has challenged the continuity and momentum behind the AWG, which is planned to be addressed in 2021.

2021 Priorities

For the upcoming year, three main components will be in focus:

1. Develop a strategy which includes overall advocacy visions and that outlines mandate and ways for working for the AWG in cooperation with the wider Alliance, and defines the human resources needed to carry out the strategy.
2. Follow up on prioritized recommendations of the Still Unprotected report.
3. Support two other Alliance working groups or task forces with advocacy.

Assessment, Measurement and Evidence Working Group

The primary function of the Assessment, Measurement, and Evidence Working Group (AME WG) is to ensure practical coordination and collaboration amongst humanitarian actors at the global level for agency specific and inter-agency evidence to be generated, synthesised and used to promote effective interventions and quality programming.

At the beginning of 2020, the co-leadership of the AME WG transitioned from Save the Children UK to World Vision. The AME WG is currently co-led by World Vision and the CPC Network. In addition, the co-leads together with UNICEF successfully identified and recruited a focal point of the AME WG to support the implementation of the remainder of the AME component of the Alliance CPHA's work plan for 2018-2021. Member agencies represent a variety of organizations with wide geographical coverage.

Key Priorities

- Develop a global definition and measurement framework for child well-being, and an accompanying contextualization guide, training package, and data analysis tool
- Define how the CPHA sector understands evidence-based practice in a position paper
- Design a framework and methodology for identifying and understanding risk and protective factor in context, and accompanying guidance and tools
- Support AME Working Group members in their assessment, measurement and evidence efforts, specifically through an e-learning series
- Develop evidence briefs and document promising practices on key issues related to CPHA

The work undertaken by the AME WG in the 2018-2020 reporting period has made significant contributions to the design, development and implementation of evidence-based approaches to monitoring and evaluation of child protection programming, thus strengthening outcomes.

In 2018, The AME Technical Specialist worked with the CP AoR and AME Working Group members to identify 39 Child Protection Rapid Assessments (CPRAs) and other inter-agency or joint assessments with a child protection focus that were conducted between 2014 and 2018. The review found that the CPRA has been effective at generating information about child protection issues where none was available. However, its use was not rapid: CPRAs generally occurred after Phase III of a humanitarian response and took, on average, three months to complete. CPRA is most effective when well-staffed by a dedicated lead and in-country support for data analysis and interpretation. These findings indicate that CPRA may be most useful in protracted emergencies. Since then, the multi-sector assessments guidelines shifted to the NIAF under the CP AoR. There are no plans to use or update the guidelines.

The piloting of the [Situation and Response Monitoring Toolkit](#) continued in two countries during 2018 - South Sudan and Northern Syria - leading to further learning on how to improve monitoring of Child Protection in humanitarian crises. Child Protection coordination mechanisms and partners will be guided to focus on how to align direct and proxy child protection-related indicators to provide a better overview of child protection needs and required responses and to improve the child protection response planning in each specific country.

In October of 2018 the Alliance, UNHCR, and the CP AoR held a joint regional workshop to provide participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to make evidence-based operational decisions that directly impact the strategy, operational planning, and implementation of Child Protection responses. The workshop guided participants to define critical gaps in child protection knowledge, oriented them toward a range of potential data gathering and analysis approaches and defined the most appropriate way to meet their context-specific assessment needs.

A session on evidence was held during the 2018 Alliance Annual Meeting in which approximately 90 practitioners from a wide range of agencies attended. The aim of the session was to discuss what “evidence” and “evidence-based programming” mean for the CPHA sector, specifically in relation to the wellbeing of the developing child. The session also highlighted the availability and appropriate uses of the current evidence base and identified priorities for how to develop the evidence base further. Practitioners participated in group work where they identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of accessing and generating evidence.

The AME WG also provided significant input that strengthened the measurement aspect of the 2019 Edition of the CPMS. The AME Working Group Technical focal point led the revision of the CPMS measurement framework in support of the CPMS review process from 2018-2019. The aim of revising the indicators was to ensure a stronger monitoring and evaluation culture in which CPHA practitioners focus on outcome-driven results. Approximately three hundred (300) indicators were updated, revised, or developed in line with the Standards and key actions and can be found [here](#).

On synthesizing and reflecting evidence in the revised CPMS, annotated bibliographies were compiled under each of the CPMS Standards and several cross-cutting themes, such as children living with disabilities in humanitarian settings. The bibliographies include over 550 resources related specifically to humanitarian contexts. The resources are being made available on the Alliance website, and the compilation will support practitioners in easily identifying and referencing existing information to ensure evidence-based programmatic interventions. References to resources included in each Standard was also added in order to have a record indicating what CPMS revision teams used to update their respective Standards.

In 2019, the AME WG consulted with a few key members (including the Silberman School of Social Work, the CPC Learning Network, and INSPIRE) to discuss the need to define what is meant by evidence-based practice in CPHA. It was agreed that a position paper be developed. This position paper was written and finalized after extensive consultation with AME WG members in 2020. It will be released in 2021.

The AME WG commissioned a [scoping study](#) by a cash expert with co-sponsorship from the CPC Learning Network. This study aimed to identify how child protection outcomes are captured when monitoring multi-purpose humanitarian cash programmes. The report outlines a theory of change that focuses on:

- Possible child protection benefits of cash in preventing negative coping strategies;
- Links between cash and protection services; and
- Approaches for mitigating potential harm to children in cash programmes.

A companion project to the scoping study was the development of a child protection monitoring module. This activity was managed by the Cash and Child Protection Task Force with support and co-funding from the CPC Learning Network and Save the Children. A consultant developed short videos and webinars to document some of the good practices from different contexts and to develop monitoring indicators that should be included in Multipurpose Cash Grants programming.

The AME WG, the Case Management Task Force (CM TF), and the Community-level Child Protection Task Force (CCCP TF) also worked together to conduct a best practice review for recruitment and capacity building of child protection caseworkers in humanitarian contexts. The final report included findings synthesised from a desk review, best practice examples from sixteen global CM TF member agencies, and key informant interviews. The final product incorporated practical guidance for building capacity, links to corresponding inter-agency tools and resources, and best practice field examples from a range of settings. This piece of work built upon the CM TF’s coaching and supervision initiative.

In addition, the AME WG collaborated with the CP AoR and UNHCR as part of the Steering Committee of the Needs Identification and Analysis Framework (NIAF) Handbook. This Handbook systematises an approach to analysis and assessment for child protection in humanitarian action and provides guidance on approaches and tools to use when addressing knowledge gaps in different phases of a humanitarian response.

In 2020, in the context of COVID-19, the AME WG supported requests from members on how to facilitate remote data collection activities in a methodologically sound and ethically safe manner. Specifically, a mapping of existing and new resources related to remote data collection, including on ethical considerations was carried out and all resources were made available to members.

In addition, the AME Working Group provided input into the CP AoR's Needs Identification and Analysis Framework (NIAF) Handbook (which was modified specifically to the COVID-19 context). This Handbook systematizes an approach to analysis and assessment for child protection in humanitarian action and provides guidance on approaches and tools to use when addressing knowledge gaps in different phases of a humanitarian response.

During the third quarter, the working group members worked together to develop a COVID-specific work plan for 2021. Several activities and research topics were highlighted, however, to date funding for these activities has not been identified.

Lastly, the AME Working Group co-leads and focal point supported the virtual annual Alliance meeting, focusing on evidence-based practices during COVID-19.

Beyond COVID-19-related work in 2020, the AME WG successfully finalized a series of key achievements and activities.

- [*Desk review and report on understanding risk and protective factors in humanitarian crises*](#), which informed the development and piloting of a methodology for the identification of risk and protective factors. This activity was facilitated in support of the Prevention Initiative. Piloting of the guidance note and tools took place in Armenia in the context of Nagorno Karabakh;
- [*Child Well-Being Contextualization Guide*](#), which includes tools to support the contextualization and measurement processes, a tool for data analysis, and a training package. Piloting of the guide and tools took place in the Rwamwanja refugee settlement in Uganda and in border communities in Armenia in the context of Nagorno Karabakh conflict by AVSI and World Vision Armenia respectively;
- Position Paper on Evidence-Based Practice in Child Protection in Humanitarian Action;
- [*Evidence brief on risk and protective factors*](#);
- Work plan for 2021-2023 (draft); and
- Mapping of existing eLearning modules related to assessment, measurement and evidence, and a draft eLearning module on techniques for interviewing children in key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

The AME Working Group held quarterly meetings with members, and continued to support practitioners' access to existing research and evidence related to child protection in humanitarian action. Collaboration continued with the CP AoR and UNHCR on various activities, including as part of the Reference Group of the Needs Identification and Analysis Framework Handbook.

Context and Challenges

The global situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic shifted much of the focus away from the initial planned activities to activities related to addressing and supporting the COVID-19 planning and response, particularly during the second quarter of the year. The AME WG co-leads initiated an ad hoc meeting with the working group at the beginning of the pandemic to identify how support to members could be provided. In particular, the AME Work Group supported the Alliance's COVID-19 Taskforce in their efforts to monitor and document the secondary impacts of the pandemic to generate lessons learned. Throughout the annual reporting period, support to members was provided on how to facilitate remote data collection activities in a methodologically sound and ethically safe manner, which was raised by members as an area in need of further support.

Additionally, two of the planned activities (the contextualization of child well-being, and the identification of risk and protective factors) involved facilitating pilots, which were planned to inform the finalization of the guidance and tools developed. Initially, it was planned that the AME WG focal point would support the piloting processes directly in country, however, due to travel restrictions, the pilots had to be managed to remotely. Despite the shift in focus from planned activities at the beginning of the pandemic, and the modifications that had to be made to the piloting processes, there were no delays in finalizing any of the activities by the end of the year.

2021 Priorities

The AME Working Group supports the assessment, measurement and evidence component of the Alliance work plan in both refugee and non-refugee contexts. The priorities this year are to (a) finalize the 2021-2023 Work Plan of the AME Working Group; (b) expand the CPMS measurement framework to include additional information to measure the indicators, such as data source examples, and develop indicator selection, modification and contextualization guidance; (c) provide technical support for the classification of child protection data (project led by UNHCR and supported by the Alliance); (d) support practitioners' access to existing research and evidence related to child protection in humanitarian action; and (e) support capacity-building initiatives on assessment, measurement and monitoring, particularly the development of an online e-learning series.

Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group

The goal of the Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group (CPMS WG) is to support technical standard setting and promote the use and integration of the *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS)* while also learning from their use and improving them.

Standards provide a clear operational framework for humanitarian actors, donors, and governments and are essential to ensuring accountability to affected populations in humanitarian action, including children. *The Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS)*, considered a companion to the Sphere standards, have become an essential resource for humanitarian workers since launching in 2012. The Alliance is the custodian of the CPMS.

Currently co-led by Save the Children and UNICEF and joined by more than 30 active member organizations, the CPMS WG seeks to promote and institutionalize use of the CPMS. To that end, the CPMS WG works to ensure increased access by a diverse range of humanitarian actors and supports use of the CPMS by all actors to strengthen capacities and improve the quality of preparedness and response programming strengthen capacities of all actors to deliver quality, accountable programming that supports child protection and wellbeing.

Key Achievements

In its signature accomplishment of the 2018-2020 reporting period, the CPMS WG unveiled the [2019 edition of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection Humanitarian Action](#)—the result of a two-year revision process to strengthen and update the first edition.

The CPMS were developed to support all humanitarian actors in strengthening child protection in their work by, first and foremost, defining the professional field of child protection in humanitarian action and establishing common principles between those working in child protection, as well improving the quality and accountability of child protection programming and its impact on children, and providing a synthesis of good practice.

Years of implementing the CPMS in diverse settings revealed the need for a more user-friendly version of the Standards that would reflect recent sector learning and evidence; improve guidance on prevention, gender and age inclusion, and other cross-cutting themes; promote applicability to a broader range of humanitarian contexts; and ensure the Standards were truly minimum standards. This revision benefitted from the input of over 1,900 individuals in 85 countries.

This 2019 edition strengthens:

- The key actions, guidance and indicators by using the latest evidence and best practices;
- The role of local actors and communities in child protection;
- Accountability to children;
- Refugee, displacement and migrant contexts;
- Infectious disease settings;
- The prevention of child protection harms;
- Cross-cutting issues like gender, adolescents and environmental considerations; and
- Integration and collaboration with other sectors;
- Comprehensive, measurable and realistic indicators

The CPMS revision process began in 2017 and continued throughout the entirety of 2018. Seventy-two (72) consultation events were held in 17 countries and 1 region. Seventy-five (75) individuals from 20 organisations contributed significant work time to textual revision of the CPMS Standards, either as co-leads for a specific standard or as focal points for cross-cutting issues. This represents nearly four times the number of individuals who participated in the development of the 1st edition.

In March 2018, a global CPiE/CPMS Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was held in collaboration with the L&D Working Group. Participants represented nine local agencies, nine international NGOs, one UN agency and four consultants. This ToT was the fifth in a series of global and regional ToTs. Additionally, a three-part webinar series on Coaching for Child Protection in Emergencies was held in February and March 2018 to build the skills of facilitators, mostly previous ToT participants, in coaching and mentoring.

Participants of the ToT series have developed into a Community of Practice of over 240 child protection/CPMS facilitators who regularly exchange information and updates. Many of the members have become strong global advocates and promoters of the CPMS, carrying out CPMS-related trainings and contextualisation workshops and promoting the use of the CPMS across regions within the sector.

The CPMS continues to be used and implemented across humanitarian contexts. Country level actions that took place in 2018 include contextualisation of the CPMS in Niger, translation into Japanese with corresponding national CPMS training workshops, training on and printing of a contextualised CPMS in Central African Republic, and CPMS trainings in Colombia and Ecuador.

The 2018 [Guidance Note on Protecting Children in Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#), also developed by the CPMS Working Group, and rolled out with the support of the Alliance Secretariat, was created in response to due to the lack of guidance available during the Ebola response in West Africa in 2014-2015. The Guidance Note and an accompanying study guide, webinar and summary version are available on the [Alliance website](#). This work has resulted in a USAID-supported, sector-integrated project to increase preparedness and readiness for infectious disease outbreaks.

The 2019 edition of the CPMS launched at the Annual Meeting in October. Five hundred copies of the CPMS and 1000 copies of the CPMS summary were produced and distributed at the launch. The CPMS is available as [full-text](#) and [summary](#) versions in print or PDF formats. An [interactive online version](#) is also hosted on the Humanitarian Standards Partnership App.

Activities in 2020 built upon the successful launch of the 2019 edition of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and focused on four themes: 1) raising awareness of the 2019 edition and key new approaches, 2) supporting country-level implementation, 3) strengthening capacities across humanitarian operations, and 4) institutionalizing the standards in humanitarian agencies.

To raise awareness, the CPMS WG, together with Alliance members and partners, reached more than 1500 humanitarian and development actors through online learning events to present the 2019 CPMS and explore the importance of using and applying them in contexts affected by COVID-19.

Regional webinars were hosted in English, Arabic, French and Spanish and included presentations and case studies from UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs and national partners. A panel was also hosted at UN ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment where several member states highlighted the critical role the CPMS play in ensuring quality and accountability in humanitarian response and called for greater funding to support implementation and adherence to the standards.

Outreach across social media platforms drove awareness and engagement with CPMS information and resources. CPMS-focused content had a documented reach of 186,500, with 17,095 unique engagements, via the Alliance's Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube channels. Outreach via Facebook has been a particularly useful tactic for reaching local and national actors in every region during a time of restrictions on travel and events.

To strengthen understanding and knowledge of the new standards and approaches in the 2019 edition, the CPMS WG held joint webinars with the Family Strengthening and Community-level CP taskforces, introducing Standards 16 and 17 to more than 200 key stakeholders. Each webinar introduced the standard, explored its use in COVID-19 response and shared case studies from a range of humanitarian contexts.

To further raise global awareness of the 2019 edition, in-person launches were held together with more than 80 donors and partners in London and Oslo in early 2020 to promote the standards and explore how global actors could support their implementation. With the onset of COVID-19, such events moved online and included global webinars introducing the standards and linking them with infectious disease response.

In partnership with the CP AoR and UNHCR, the CPMS WG distributed more than 800 handbooks and summaries to more than 30 countries in 2020. The CPMS printed a further 2000 handbooks in French, Spanish and Arabic and secured an agreement for the commercial sale of the CPMS in four languages through our publisher [Practical Action](#), significantly increasing access to the handbooks for a diverse range of actors. Humanitarian actors, academics and partners will now be able to purchase the CPMS online, with £2 for each copy purchased returning to the CPMS WG to provide handbooks free of charge to national actors and governments with limited resources.

A six-minute introduction video to explain the 2019 edition of the CPMS and its use in humanitarian response was produced in English, Spanish, French and Arabic and shared widely amongst Alliance members and partners and on social media garnering more than 3600 views across the four languages, the accessible video is raising awareness of the 2019 edition and linking a diverse range of humanitarian actors with CPMS resources to support implementation. The CPMS Video Series is being further expanded with new videos introducing Pillars 3 and 4 (to be released in Q1 2021).

A [guide](#) to the complementarity and use of the CPMS and the INSPIRE initiative was finalized in Q3 of 2020. It provided a channel to communicate about the existence and purpose of the CPMS with non-humanitarian Child Protection workers.

Supporting country-level implementation, translation of the CPMS and related materials into 4 languages: The CPMS handbook, its annexes and summary are now available in French, Spanish and Arabic in PDF, and in collaboration with the Humanitarian Standards Partnership, through [mobile phone app](#) and [online interactive versions](#). Ensuring the standards are available in at least 4 languages across a range of platforms allows thousands of humanitarian actors to access and use the standards in their daily work. The CPMS handbook, for example, has been downloaded over 34,000 times from the Alliance website (English 26,765; French 2,634; Spanish 2,558 and Arabic 2,246).

The CPMS WG also developed the Implementation Toolkit to support child protection coordination groups, humanitarian agencies and national and local actors to work together to promote and implement the standards within each country and region. The toolkit includes quick guides on contextualization, awareness raising and capacity building, and monitoring application, and was launched to an audience of more than 400 humanitarian actors at the Alliance Annual Meeting in October 2020. Since then, the Implementation Toolkit has been accessed approximately 1,500 times via the Alliance website. It is now being translated and will be launched in multiple languages in 2021.

Further, the CPMS WG provided communications support (such as graphic tools) for CPMS launch events in Bangladesh and Tanzania and [amplified launch messages](#) globally via Alliance and inter-agency partner social media platforms. Planning has started for regional and national launches across Asia in the first 2 quarters of 2021.

In October, [the CPMS Innovation Fund](#) was launched to support creative projects, led by national actors, to strengthen the implementation of and adherence to the CPMS. Sixty-five applications from more than 50 countries were received and reviewed, and 3 projects in Cameroon, Colombia and Iraq prioritized for funding in early 2021.

Working with the L&D WG to strengthen capacities on new standards and approaches resulted in a complete update to the CPMS e-course to ensure it reflected the 2019 edition. In addition, 2 new modules were added and work was initiated on a further 2 standards. Over Q4, the WG partnered with INEE to create a joint introductory module on Education and Child Protection. This brings the format of the CPMS e-course to 5 compulsory modules and at least 1 optional module (from a choice of 5 standards).

The Alliance's central training package required updating to reflect the 2019 edition of the CPMS. The CPMS WG was able to fund an initial phase which allowed for consultations with key stakeholders and the development of overall training guidance.

In support of institutionalization within humanitarian agencies, donors and development actors, the CPMS Working Group revised its institutionalization tools for both coordination groups and humanitarian organizations to support the incorporation of the standards into their policies, procedures, and normal ways of working. The new tools have been promoted as part of the CPMS Implementation Toolkit and will be part of a broad institutionalization campaign within the Alliance in 2021.

The CP AoR has also supported integration of the CPMS into Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs).

Context and Challenges

The CPMS Working Group was challenged to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic with movement restrictions and lockdowns making traditional, in-person launch events and trainings impossible at both the country and global level. The CPMS invested in more online and remote events and worked collaboratively with country-level responses to identify critical activities that could still be prioritized to promote the standards and ensure the benchmarks for quality and accountability were being met in COVID-19 response. The CPMS WG supported a range of regional and country-level webinars in multiple languages, worked with standard-specific task forces to gather case studies and host events exploring their use in COVID-19 response, and advocated for the inclusion of the standards in new COVID-19 technical guidance. It also invested more effort in the production and promotion of online materials, such as videos, e-modules, graphics, etc.

2021 Priorities

In 2021, the CPMS WG will continue to focus on promoting the 2019 CPMS, in particular Pillar 4: Working Across Sectors, and strengthen the application of multi-sectoral approaches that intentionally consider the protection and well-being of children throughout the programme cycle. The CPMS WG will also continue its close collaboration with the Humanitarian Standards Partnership to strengthen work across sectors and application of standards to ensure quality and accountability. Finalization and launch of the Pillar 3 Video ([English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#)) and Pillar 4 Video ([English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#)) will be completed in Quarter 1 of 2021. A new video on Standard 9: Sexual and Gender-based Violence will also be produced in four languages in 2021.

The CPMS Implementation Toolkit will be finalized, launched and disseminated in French, Spanish and Arabic in early 2021, ensuring that national and international actors from all regions have access to tools to support the implementation of the standards.

The CPMS WG will aim to distribute at least 2000 handbooks in 2021, prioritizing the sharing of the language versions to national and local actors who might otherwise struggle to use the CPMS.

Building on lessons learned from 2020, strategic social media outreach across platforms (including Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube) will increase in 2021. CPMS resources such as the updated and expanded e-course, CPMS video series, and Pillar 4 – Working across Sectors tools will be promoted to build awareness and engagement. Tactics will include targeted social media paid ads and mobilizing inter-agency partners' social media networks.

The CPMS WG will continue to work with other Alliance Task Forces and Working Groups to support standard specific capacity building through webinars and development of new in-person and remote training packages in 2021.

Four new modules will be added to the CPMS e-course by April 2021: Community Level Child Protection; Socio-ecological approach; Child Labour; and Group activities for children's well-being. Though funding dependent, it is anticipated that another 2-4 will be added later in the year.

The WG will again lead a process of reviewing agency level institutionalization of the CPMS across the Alliance. It will update the 2013 checklist and analyse members' responses. The findings will then inform how the WG (and Alliance) can better support members in their implementation of the CPMS throughout their programmes.

Learning & Development Working Group

The goal of the Learning & Development Working Group (L&D WG), since the beginning of 2020 co-led by Plan International and UNICEF, is to bridge the human resource gap for child protection in humanitarian action. The group builds capacity of humanitarian workers and plays an important role in capacity needs analysis.

The L&D WG coordinates efforts to build capacity and to support capacity needs analyses that contribute to understanding and mapping learning and development in the global child protection in humanitarian action sector and thereby planning for the future.

For the reporting period key priorities included:

- Increase learning and development opportunities for CPIE actors at global, regional and national levels.
- Contribute to the development and dissemination of high-quality learning material and support to CPIE actors at all levels and across stages of emergencies.
- Support CPIE professional, interagency developments and opportunities that correspond with up-to-date capacity gaps and needs.

Key Achievements

The L&D WG has become an increasingly valuable resource for practitioners in emergency contexts. Since the beginning of the 2018-2020 reporting period, the L&D WG has been steadily increasing learning and development opportunities for CPHA actors at global, regional and national levels, guided by evidence from a capacity-building mapping exercise and market analysis showing that learning opportunities were scarce where they were needed most.

In 2018, the L&D WG focal point responded to more than 240 specific requests of L&D support from 27 countries in addition to more than 400 calls from other Task Forces, Working Groups and individual members of the LDWG. Requests for assistance included support for assessing capacity and identifying gaps/needs, assistance contextualizing learning materials and resources, location of relevant learning materials and resources, facilitation of connections between key global technical people and Alliance TFs/WGs, and provision of technical coaching/mentoring.

In 2019, the L&D WG gave direct assistance to actors in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Uganda. The L&D WG also worked with nearly every Alliance working group and task force to develop and deliver learning and development materials, including an e-learning with the Community-level Child Protection Task Force. During the revision of the CPMS with the Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group, the L&D WG led the revision of standard 2 on Human Resources

In 2019, the L&D Focal Point also supported the Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) Task Force to develop, pilot, and pilot a new UASC Trainer of Trainers. This 5-day training package is designed to strengthen and improve Alliance members' capacity to prepare for and respond to UASC-related issues at field, country, regional, and global levels. The package aligns with the global [Toolkit on Unaccompanied and Separated Children](#) and the [Field Handbook on Unaccompanied and Separated Children](#) and is available upon request in view of its future finalization.

Throughout 2019 in addition to assisting other Alliance groups, the L&D WG has invested in its own products and initiatives.

Early in the year the initial revisions of the [Global Child Protection in Emergencies Face-to-Face Training Package](#) have been completed. The face-to-face package was also contextualised for inter-agency, field-based trainings in Mexico, Syria, Iraq, Mozambique, and Ethiopia. These trainings were led by L&D WG members Save the Children, Plan International, and UNICEF. This training package will need to be aligned to the 2019 CPMS.

An [Alliance Learning and Development Calendar](#) was developed to support all working groups and task forces to communicate on L&D events.

The [Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Competency Framework](#) was revised, aligned to the 2019 Edition of the CPMS, edited, and released for testing.

Regional, inter-agency face-to-face trainings of trainers on child protection in humanitarian action were held in Burkina Faso and Columbia also took place during the year.

The [Inter-Agency Training Packages Menu](#) was updated and broadly shared to increase field workers' awareness and access to learning resources.

As UNHCR and TDH passed on the leadership of the group to Plan International and UNICEF at the end of 2019, two full time L&D WG co-leads were hired one starting in April 2020 and the other beginning in December 2020.

The L&D WG membership was reactivated by reaching out to all partner agencies and verifying an appropriate representation in the group. Expanding the membership of the group has continued to be a goal for the group throughout 2020, looking, in particular, at having more local NGOs represented as well as tertiary and academic education institutions.

While fundraising efforts against the broader Learning and Development Working Group strategy had been ongoing during the first quarter, Plan International and the L&D WG were successfully able to repurpose these efforts to respond to the changing global context as the pandemic was declared and most countries were in full or partial lockdowns. Plan international confirmed approval of donor funding in August which allowed the hiring of the Plan International L&D WG co-lead and a Massive Open Online Course Moderator to start later in the year. The objective of the approved project was to better equip the CPHA workforce to adapt CP programming in the context of COVID. At the outset of the project, a CPHA COVID-19 capacity gaps analysis was conducted to inform the development of learning tools and modules on the protection of children during COVID-19.

Given the finding of the COVID-19 capacity gaps analysis and the amount of guidance and tools developed by the Alliance to help practitioners adapt to new challenges while continuing to deliver quality child protection services, it was decided to proceed with the development of a massive open online course (MOOC) to systematize these resources in a practical learning pathway.

The L&D WG group partnered with [Future Learn](#), a digital education platform that waived their membership fees for initiatives related to [COVID 19](#). The MOOC "[Protecting Children During COVID-19](#)" was developed with a core group of contributors from the L&D WG membership and was launched on October 26th. While some videos were shared by member agencies a total of 14 videos and 2 podcasts were developed by the L&D WG specifically for the MOOC. The six-week course was very well-received by learners:

- **3795** learners enrolled from **160** countries (United Kingdom, India and Lebanon being the top three ranking)
- **51.5%** female enrollees and **47.9%** male enrollees
- More than **7000** comments received
- **89.9%** positive feedback on weekly sentiment surveys
- **95%** of end survey respondents state they have gained knowledge and skills by taking the course

A second iteration of the course is now being worked on, expanding content to encompass infectious disease outbreaks more broadly.

The former CPIE Face to Face Training package review was postponed due to shifting priorities but during the last quarter the process was set in motion again. With the support of the CPMS WG funding was leveraged and 2 consultants were hired to develop a framework for the revision of the package.

Throughout the second and third quarter the L&D WG focal point also led an additional revision process of the 2019 field testing version of the CPHA Competency Framework. An annex to the framework was also developed in cooperation with INEE to ensure mutual cross-referencing of sectoral competency frameworks and to promote further integration of programmes.

The [Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Competency Framework](#) was launched in October 2020. This final version of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Competency Framework fully aligns with the 2019 Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and builds on the Standards to articulate a set of recognized technical competencies for child protection in humanitarian action. It broadly describes expected standards of performance across a number of technical competencies that can be applied to different roles within the sector.

The framework is intended to inform staff recruitment, learning and professional development, performance management, planning and organisational design. It provides sector-wide guidance to advance the accountability, effectiveness and predictability of CP preparedness, response and recovery programming for affected populations. The framework is considered a live document and the L&D WG aims to revise the entire document one year from launch. An accompanying number of tools are being developed and should be launched in Quarter 1 of 2021 to facilitate the use of the framework.

The L&D WG focal point strived to participate in the majority of the calls of other WGs and TFs and continued to support the design and roll out of capacity building initiatives, the majority of which will be finalized and launched in 2021: i.e. CPMS E-course revision and expansion, Preventing and Responding to Child Labour in Humanitarian Action training package development featuring a remote delivery guidance, amongst others. The L&D WG also supported the CAAFAG TF on the design of a CAAFAG capacity gaps analysis that will inform the relevant capacity building toolkit.

Finally, it is worth noting that the L&D WG fully supported the first online-only Alliance Annual Meeting and in dedicated sessions where more than 60 participants attended. This helped better advertise initiatives such as the Massive Open Online Course on “Protecting Children During COVID-19” but also initiatives of partner agencies, as the L&D WG played a convener role in encouraging its membership to share about their ongoing capacity building work.

The 2021 -2023 work plan was drafted with inputs gathered through the enlarged audience of the annual meeting and its first draft was submitted in the last quarter of the 2020.

Context and Challenges

During the rotation process of the Working Groups leads, the Alliance started the process of identifying a focal point for the Learning and Development Working Group at the end of 2019. A practitioner was identified at the end of January but only to start tenure towards the end of first quarter in 2020. This created a gap in the mobilization of the L&D WG. A significant amount of time was invested in rebuilding the foundations of the L&D WG including re-engaging with all its members and reconnecting with all Working Groups and Task Forces. The benefit of this continuous piece of work will show more in 2021, and the group has already grown to be more active and committed throughout the year.

In many countries the traditional face-to-face learning and development methodology was shut down almost overnight due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, with the spotlight suddenly shifting to technology and the world of virtual learning. Change tends to bring a mixture of challenges and brilliant opportunities. The L&D WG group has been delayed in some processes because a new way forward had to be forged. The L&D WG is now better equipped to develop learning aids that will be effective in the virtual world as well as face to face when the pandemic will allow.

2021 Priorities

- Expanding the membership of the L&D WG to include more academic institutions, online learning providers and local NGOs will continue to be an objective for the group as well as an appropriate mobilization of the group with a focus on sharing of experiences in the L&D realm. The 2021-2023 work-plan will be finalized during the first quarter and synergies will be established with all TFs and WGs of the Alliance.
- The development of COVID-19 and IDO related learning modules and tools including the revision of the MOOC to encompass infectious diseases outbreaks more broadly will also be a focus of the first and second quarters while concurrently prioritizing the revision of the former “CPIE Face to Face Training Package” that was placed on hold in 2020 due to the pandemic.
- Capacity building resources, tools and open house L&D technical support sessions will be developed and hosted by the L&D WG. Working Groups and Task forces will be supported in the development and roll out of capacity building initiatives to reach practitioners on the ground with the L&D support they need.
- Moving forward the L&D WG will also further emphasize the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of L&D initiatives run by the Alliance to better ground L&D efforts in evidence coming from the front line.
- Finally, the L&D WG will also strive to promote a capacity sharing approach to enhance exchange of experience, practices, learning amongst organizations and CP workers through dedicated webinars and working on the establishment of a community of practice.

Case Management Task Force

The role of the Case Management Task Force (CMTF) is to provide technical guidance and develop case management tools and resources to strengthen child protection services and build systems of care in humanitarian settings. The CMTF aims to improve the knowledge and skills of emergency child protection responders who are planning, implementing, or supporting case management services as well as contribute to field-level learning and research.

The work of the CMTF is anchored in the Interagency Guidelines for Case Management and Child Protection (2014). The guidelines describe what case management is and provide step-by-step guidance on approaching child protection cases in humanitarian contexts. It remains a key resource in the development of case management systems at the national, regional, and global levels.

The CMTF is currently co-led by the International Rescue Committee and UNICEF. The co-leadership has supported greater engagement, activity and overall productivity of the group.

Key Priorities

- Ensure that Child Protection practitioners have access to inter-agency technical tools, guidance and support to strengthen case management systems in humanitarian settings.
- Ensure that Child Protection practitioners have access to inter-agency case management capacity building opportunities at national, regional and global levels.
- Collect, synthesise, and effectively disseminate learning and evidence on case management systems and practices.

Key Achievements

In keeping with its key priorities and objectives under the 2018-2020 Work Plan, the CMTF produced a series of valuable tools and guidance over the three-year reporting period—building a comprehensive set of standardized resources that augment the knowledge and skills of international and field-level responders. These resources proved vital for child protection actors working to maintain and adapt essential case management services in response to COVID-19.

The CMTF's signature achievement in 2018 was the finalization and launch of the [Case Management Supervision and Coaching Training Package and Tools](#). The Supervision package, which includes a Facilitator's Guide, Training Modules and Supervision Tools, supplements the existing Interagency Case Management Guidelines and Training Manual (2014) and targets caseworker supervisors, enhancing their confidence, capacity and support of caseworkers in providing safe, ethical and competent case management services to vulnerable children and their families.

In 2018, the CMTF also created Child Protection Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) guidance and a corresponding Inter-Agency SOP template. The guide focuses on the 5-step process of developing an SOP: assess, plan, draft, disseminate and capacity build, review and revise. The SOP resources were disseminated in 2019.

To support quality improvement of case management systems, the CMTF began developing the Quality Assessment Framework (QAF) in 2018 and will finalise in 2021. The QAF is designed to help specialized child protection case management staff understand how a particular case management system is set up, how it operates and how it can be improved. The QAF uses a measurement matrix to identify strengths and weaknesses to support ongoing development of the case management system and serves to prioritise needed actions.

Importantly, in 2018 the CMTF led an intensive revision process of the CPMS CM standard and indicators, a process that worked to ensure the CPMS CM standard linked to the latest evidence and best practice; ensured improved applicability to all humanitarian contexts, including preparedness; communicated to a wide range of child protection and humanitarian workers, particularly frontline workers; and included strengthened cross-cutting issues (e.g. coordination).

In 2019, the CM TF and CPIMS+ Steering Committee organised a joint webinar series in English, Spanish, and French. Topics included a five-part video series that introduced (a) key inter-agency resources related to child protection case management in humanitarian settings, (b) the new global inter-agency child protection case management forms, and (c) the forms' field-testing process.

In response to the demand for more technical guidance, resources, and support on case management, the CM TF launched a [Global Case Management Online Learning Series](#) in June 2019. The series benefits country-level, inter-agency groups working on child protection case management as well as other humanitarian actors.

In October 2019, the CM TF and the Community-level Child Protection Task Force (CCP TF) initiated a joint project exploring the role of community members in the case management process. Plan International, funded by OFDA, is leading the two-year initiative to (a) provide a better understanding of the role of community volunteers, para-social workers, and traditional mechanisms in the delivery of formalised case management services and (b) develop effective, evidence-supported guidance and tools to support best practices among community child protection actors.

In 2020, upon the emergence of COVID-19, the work plan was adjusted. The CMTF shifted focus to support response efforts by producing guidance documents on the delivery of case management during the global pandemic. Child Protection Case Management (CP CM) is part of the essential services that cannot be stopped suddenly, but which requires adaptation to the new emergency.

The CM TF moved quickly to develop and disseminate global COVID-19 case management guidance. [The Guidance Note: Adaptation of Case Management to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), produced in English, [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#) and [French](#), provides 'how to' guidance on adapting case management service during the pandemic. Webinars were held to share the guidance note with practitioners.

The technical note builds on existing response action from several countries and case management task force agencies. It provides considerations for adapting CP CM interventions to the COVID-19 pandemic and to better understand the important role of case management in the emergency.

The first version of the guidance note was finalized in April 2020 with the support of task force agencies and was informed by interagency country-level guidance created in Iraq, Lebanon and Bangladesh. The document was structured around the key components of a case management system building from the Quality Assessment Framework Tool (QAF).

In response to feedback from users requesting specific guidance on the provision of case management by phone, second and third versions of the Note were developed. The operational guidance was developed for frontline caseworkers, social workers, and supervisors directly supporting children, caregivers, and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes practical tips and techniques for how to work safely and appropriately with children, families, and significant people in children's lives, while managing existing and new cases. The third and final version is accompanied by more than 60 annexes and is translated into Spanish, French, Arabic.

The CMTF COVID 19 guidance note was shared widely through the Alliance, member agencies, and the AOR through the help desks. Additionally, in collaboration with the L&D WG, there was an [English](#) and Spanish webinar conducted to share country testimonies on adapting case management during the pandemic and introduce the content of the guidance note. There were 130 live participants and over 140 views on YouTube of the Spanish webinar. There were 1,170 live participants and over 1,350 views on YouTube of the English webinar.

The foundation of case management in humanitarian settings has been established through the development of the core resources such as the Interagency case management guidance and training package, but the lack of specific skills-based capacity building modules hinders caseworkers and supervisors' ability to perform both essential and advanced casework functions. In 2020, the IRC and UNICEF were granted funding from BHA to support interagency case management capacity building efforts. In collaboration with task force agencies, concept notes were developed that focused on:

- 1) developing a comprehensive child protection case management resource package to be delivered using a graduated approach;
- 2) creating specialized modules such as MHPSS, communicating with children, alternative care, etc.;
- 3) designing a competency framework and easy to use tools to measure caseworker skills and knowledge.

Through this funding, the CMTF will address the gaps identified at country level and respond to requests submitted through the help desks by developing specialized skills-based, on-the-job training modules and designing easy-to-use methods to measure core competencies.

The work kicked off in fall 2020 with the recruitment of dedicated staff to lead the process and develop the content. A technical team was also established to contribute to the design, development, piloting and dissemination of the resource package. Design workshops and country level engagement will begin in 2021.

The CMTF and the Community-level Task Force's joint project on Community Based Case Management initiated the research phase of the [Community Engagement in Case Management \(CECM\)](#) in 2020. 89 academic sources were reviewed and 30 key informant interviews were conducted with technical advisors, academics, managers, coordinators and supervisors engaged in case management. Malawi and Myanmar were selected as the two countries to conduct field research on the role of community volunteers in case management.

A draft of the CECM research report was shared with the technical advisory group for review in November 2020. The report focused on 5 key findings: 1) the benefits of community volunteers, 2) the need for critical reflection on the manner in which community volunteers are engaged in case management, 3) recognizing the lived reality of community volunteers, 4) being context-aware and building on what exists, and 5) evidence to build effectiveness, quality, and sustainability into work with community volunteers. The CECM research report will be finalized in 2021 and a resource, tools or guidance will be produced to support the work of community volunteers in case management.

After the finalization of the global case management forms, the CMTF worked closely with the CPIMS steering committee to upload the new forms into the CPIMS+ for the launch of V2 which would enable country-level case management teams to quickly deploy the CPIMS+ in an emergency start-up along with case management services. In the past there have been major delays with rolling out the information management system due to the level of effort and costs associated with configuring the system. The CMTF supported the transition of the case management forms into the CPIMS in Arabic, Spanish, Dari, Pashtu and French ahead of the launch of V2 in 2021.

Context and Challenges

The Work Plan developed by the CMTF members was ambitious, and many activities did not have funding in 2020 so there was a heavy reliance on CMTF members time to support. With member agencies working hard to respond to the pandemic, there was an over reliance on the CMTF co-leads to produce content and move activities forward. This year the co-lead agencies spent a significant amount of time fundraising and found limited successful with efforts to secure funding for all activities within the 2021 – 2023 work plan.

Due to the pandemic, additional activities had to be added to the work plan but there was no funding at the beginning of the crisis to develop guidance or resources which generally fell on the members to do in their spare time while they were also responding to the pandemic within their own agencies. Despite the challenges, the CMTF managed to produce the COVID-19 technical guidance note and guide on how to conduct case management by phone. Some of the other activities proposed by members to respond to the pandemic, including a UNHCR-led MOOC, had to be completed by the individual agency due to the short turnaround time and inability for CMTF members to fully engage in the process.

2021 Priorities

At the end of 2020, the CMTF embarked on a process to define objectives and activities for the 2021 – 2023 work plan. Priority activities under each of the 5 main objectives are highlighted here:

- Child Protection practitioners have access to inter-agency technical tools, guidance and support to strengthen case management systems in humanitarian settings.
- Develop resources and guidance to improve information management for case management (IM4CM).
- Support the joint CCP TF and CM TF initiative “Community Engagement in Case Management” through the stages of learning, development, piloting, and dissemination.
- Strengthening capacity at national, regional and global levels to respond to COVID-19 emergency and its effects on existing emergencies with respect to Child Protection Case Management.
- Conduct research to build a stronger evidence-base for case management in humanitarian settings.

Cash Transfer and Child Protection Task Force

The taskforce's purpose is to document evidence on the impact and effectiveness of cash transfers on child protection outcomes in emergencies, their potential for greater use and impact, and their risks in order to improve policy and practice with respect to cash transfers and child protection in emergencies.

IRC and World Vision are currently co-chairing the taskforce. There are over 50 members in the TF from CP AoR, Plan International, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and other organizations. The members are divided into active members, who have voting rights in meetings, and who contribute actively to at least one of the work plan activities; and informed members, who are eligible to express opinions, but with no voting rights.

Key Objectives

- Document evidence on the impact and effectiveness of cash transfers on child protection outcomes in emergencies.
- Increase collaborative investment in greater measurement and research on cash transfer linkages to child protection.
- Generate learnings to guide improved policy, practice, and innovation for the humanitarian community to address risks and realize the full potential of cash and voucher assistance to support child protection.

Key Achievements

In 2018, the primary achievement of the Cash Transfers & Child Protection (CTCP) Task Force was the production of an evidence review and discussion paper, made possible with the generous support of UNICEF and the in-kind operational support of World Vision. Conducted through summer and fall 2018, this exercise included a review of the literature (to summarize evidence and gaps) and a series of key informant interviews (to elaborate, contextualize, and substantiate those findings). Early findings were presented during the October meetings of the Alliance. The final report was produced in November 2018 and the official launch is planned for the spring of 2019.

Additional achievements include the success of a BPRM-funded proposal to the wider Alliance (supported by Save the Children). This project developed a common set of indicators and M&E tools to improve the ability of humanitarian actors to assess the impact of multipurpose cash grants on child protection outcomes. The CTCP Task Force was able to leverage the ongoing evidence review to provide feedback on the revision of the Child Protection Minimum Standards on the cross-cutting topic of cash. The Task Force also participated in several conversations to better coordinate and initiate collaboration with fellow TF and WG group leads under the Alliance as well as with broader coordination platforms.

In spring of 2019, the CTCP TF launched the final evidence review and discussion paper, "[Cash Transfer Programming and Humanitarian Action: Review and Opportunities to Strengthen the Evidence](#)." In addition, the CTCP also launched its publication, "[Monitoring Child Protection in Humanitarian Cash Programs](#)." The paper was a result from a call for expressions of interest to produce a case study series on cash and child protection. Through the case studies, learnings about success and challenges from humanitarian cash program implementation were highlighted to show the potential impact of cash transfers on child protection outcomes.

The CTCP TF supported the, "[2019 revision of the CPMS standards](#)" as well to reflect current cash and child protection knowledge. The task force also promoted the availability of tools, guidance, and direct support for quality programming and continued learning through websites and webinars.

Context and Challenges

In 2018, the main challenge was the limited availability of time and human resources among Task Force Co-Chairs and members to engage in the work plan more substantively. This reflects the voluntary nature of the Task Force and the lack of budgeting for dedicated staff to support several of the work plan's priority activities. More dedicated funding was also needed to undertake research and build the evidence based on the programming.

2021 Priorities

A decision was made in 2019 by the Steering Committee that the Cash Transfer and Child Protection Task Force would transition into a technical focal point. The technical focal points, former co-leads of the TF, will liaise with existing Cash fora within the Global Protection Cluster and with the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP).

Child Labor Task Force

The Child Labour Task Force (CLTF) was established in 2011 under the former global Child Protection Working Group (CPWG). The overall goal of the CLTF is to ensure practical coordination and collaboration amongst global-level humanitarian responders and development actors and to build practitioners' capacity to use and access technical tools, guidance, knowledge management, and coordination in the interest of quality and coordinated country-level preparedness, prevention, and response actions for child labour in emergencies.

The Task Force provides a platform to identify and seek to address common challenges in child labour in emergencies programming, providing a collective technical voice on child labour issues in emergencies for other core pieces of work such as humanitarian standard setting, inter-sectoral collaboration, and global advocacy and policy work related to child labour. The Alliance Steering Committee has agreed to end the CLTF by end of 2021.

Key Objectives:

- Technical tools and guidance: Inter-agency technical guidance, standards, and tools to prevent and respond to (the worst forms of) child labour in emergencies are available and reflect the latest evidence and lessons learned.
- Capacity building: Humanitarian responders have enhanced knowledge and competencies to prevent and respond to (the worst forms of) child labour in emergencies.
- Coordination, policy and advocacy: Child labour in humanitarian settings is integrated/ reflected in the agenda of relevant global, regional and local platforms, including but not limited to the other working groups and task forces of the Alliance.

Key Achievements

A major undertaking for the Task Force and spanning the 2018-2020 reporting period was the ongoing development and finalization of the [Inter-Agency Toolkit: Preventing and Responding to Child Labour in Humanitarian Action](#). The toolkit is an example of a large-scale inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaboration: over 150 individuals from more than 30 agencies worldwide have helped develop and test the guidance and tools and shared best practice. The toolkit complements the 2019 edition of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and seeks to form an evidence base for child labour programming in humanitarian settings, reflecting the significant progress made over the past years.

During the development phase following the 2017 piloting of the toolkit, CLTF child labour consultant collected feedback from over 100 key users through an online survey and key informant interviews. Over 25 new and existing child labour [case studies](#) were collected and updated throughout 2018, resulting in a final version of the global child labour in emergencies toolkit and a regional toolkit for the Middle East region developed in collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO) Regional Office for the Arabic States (ROAS).

In its capacity building efforts, the CLTF collaborated with UNICEF Turkey to enhance the capacity of humanitarian responders to address child labour. The CLTF provided technical support remotely and during in-country visits in June and October 2017 with a final visit in May 2018. During these visits, consultations and workshops were held with over 200 practitioners working in child protection, education, social protection, livelihoods, and government and private sectors in Gaziantep, Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir. The global Child Labour in Emergencies toolkit was introduced and validated in workshops for the specific context of the Syria response in Turkey. The consultations helped identify key challenges in preventing and responding to child labour in Turkey and found entry points to mainstream child labour considerations into existing sector response programmes and child protection case management procedures. Key outputs included a set of five child labour information booklets with key guidance for different audiences, including humanitarian workers, child protection, education, and private sector actors. In addition, the CLTF developed a set of contextualised tools for child labour risk assessments (case management tool), workplace harm reduction strategies for children, and child labour indicators.

In 2018, on behalf of the Task Force, World Vision International led a child labour donor mapping exercise. The donor mapping aims to support field-based actors with information on donor funding opportunities to prevent or mitigate the harmful effects of child labour in emergencies. The mapping includes a desk review and key informant interviews. The mapping presents a range of funding opportunities and provide guidance on donor-specific engagement, proposal writing, and management.

The CLTF also welcomed two new members in 2018: War Child UK and Children of One World.

In 2019, the CLTF contributed to the revision of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, in particular Standard 12: Child Labour. This process was led by ILO, Plan International, and IOM. The inclusion of new evidence and a better reflection of good practice in anti-trafficking programming in humanitarian action were the two main changes. In October, the CLTF participated in the Alliance's Annual Meeting, where the task force presented its work and progress during the marketplace and a face- to-face meeting with CLTF members. The CLTF also provided remote support to organisations working on child labour issues in Northern Syria.

In 2020, work continued to finalise the interagency toolkit: [Preventing and Responding to Child Labour in Humanitarian Action](#) including:

- Collecting, reviewing and addressing comments to finalise the toolkit.
- Identifying funding sources for translations into Arabic, Spanish and French.
- Providing inputs and reviewing design and layout and sharing photos.
- Developing training package in collaboration with the L&D WG and external consultant.
- Preparing a [joint-plan](#) for the launch and roll out in 2021.
- Creating a [microsite](#) to host all resources in collaboration with KM Alliance CPHA.

The CLTF also participated in the 2020 Annual Meeting and facilitated all Child Labour sessions including: Hot off the Press presenting the new inter-agency toolkit (see [video](#)); Child Labour Task Force pitch, see [presentation](#); Child Labour market place presenting the toolkit; COVID-19 resources and the UN Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.

Among other efforts, the Task Force organised the Child Labour Task Force Annual Meeting, see [Facebook link](#), developed resources and facilitated CPIE Professional Development Programme sessions on Child Labour for Asia, Africa and MENA, organised regular CLTF coordination calls, shared information and organised bilateral calls with members, and developed several concept notes for donors including integration with education.

Task Force efforts and achievements related to the Alliance's COVID-19 response are as follows:

- Led and coordinated inputs for the [Technical Note: COVID-19 and Child Labour](#) including translation and review into Spanish and French and accompanied presentation for dissemination.
- Collection of [examples](#) on how COVID-19 impacts child labour, practices and programme adaptations.
- Contributed to the overall [Alliance CPHA Technical Note: Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic and its annexes](#).
- Organised and facilitated a [global webinar on COVID-19 and Child Labour](#) to mark the World Day against Child Labour 2020 with the theme 'COVID-19: Protect children from child labour. During the webinar, experts and practitioners from different organisations presented field experiences preventing and responding to Child Labour during COVID-19. Participants also got an update on the technical note and other evidence-based resources. Participants were also able to reflect and discuss challenges and opportunities to address child labour in the context of COVID-19.

- Reviewed and supported the finalization of the [evidence synthesis on child labour and COVID-19](#).
- [Podcast | Protected! Podcast Ep 4: Impact of COVID-19 on Child Labour Programming in Myanmar](#) with Selim Benaissa, member of CLTF and Chief Technical Officer from the ILO on the Myanmar program from the elimination of child labour.
- Contributed a specific section on Infectious Disease Outbreaks as part of the Inter-Agency Toolkit: Preventing and Responding to Child Labour in Humanitarian Action.
- Organized CLTF calls with focus on Covid-19 pandemic, needs, and additional resources.

Context and Challenges

Limited human resource capacity is the main challenge for the Task Force. The increasing problem of child labour in emergencies has resulted in a higher demand for technical expertise in child labour in various humanitarian contexts. Technical support requests included but were not limited to: support in emergency preparedness efforts, developing (inter-sector) child labour prevention and response strategies, technical support to humanitarian frontline workers (including training and tool development), and support in situation analysis (including assessments and development of programming guidance). The socioeconomic shocks resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are likely to push millions of children into child labour and the needs for technical expertise and training are likely to rise further. Budget constraints also present hurdles to expanded programming and activities.

2021 Priorities

Technical tools, standards and guidance: Inter-agency Child Labour in Humanitarian Action Toolkit is available and disseminated at local, national, regional and global levels.

Capacity building: Humanitarian responders have enhanced knowledge and competencies to prevent and respond to (the worst forms of) child labour in humanitarian action

Coordination, policy and advocacy: Child labour in humanitarian settings is integrated/reflected in the agenda's of relevant global, regional and local platforms, including but not limited to the 8.7 Alliance and other Task Forces under the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups Task Force

Every day a child remains with an armed force or group, he or she is at risk of physical, psychological and sexual violence, and even death. Prevention of recruitment; separating children from armed forces and groups; responding to their needs; and supporting the reintegration process are all life-saving interventions.

In recognition of the urgent need to improve global and national coordination and increase field-level collaboration to address the needs of these children more effectively, the Alliance formed the Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups Task Force (CAAFAG TF) in September 2020.

The CAAFAG TF, co-led by Plan International and UNICEF, provides a platform for humanitarian responders and development actors to identify collective needs and develop integrated solutions, informed by evidence generation, sharing of good practices and documentation of lessons learned. The CAAFAG TF has 28 members from 17 organisations and 3 independent consultants.

Specifically, the Task Force provides technical support and capacity building to field practitioners to strengthen quality programming in emergencies and protracted crises aimed at preventing recruitment, facilitating the release of children associated with armed forces or armed groups, and supporting their needs throughout the reintegration process.

The terms of reference include the following objectives:

1. Technical tools and guidance: Humanitarian and development responders have access to and use inter-agency guidance and tools to prevent and respond to child recruitment in armed forces and armed groups.
2. Capacity building: Humanitarian and development responders have enhanced knowledge, skills and behaviours to prevent and respond to child recruitment in armed forces and armed groups.
3. Community of practice: Evidence, research, good practices and lessons learned that contribute to a better understanding of CAAFAG issues and effective response are shared.
4. Coordination, policy and advocacy: Linkages between the CAAFAG TF and the other global platforms and initiatives are established, including but not limited to Paris Principles Steering Group, IASC MHPSS Technical Reference Group, Child Protection and GBV AoRs and other Task Forces and Working Groups under the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

In May 2020, before the CAAFAG TF was officially formed, future members contributed to the Alliance's comprehensive COVID-19 response with [Key Messages and Considerations for Programming for Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), and Annex to the [Technical Note: Protection of Children during the Coronavirus Pandemic](#).

The document highlights issues relating to prevention and response programming for CAAFAG in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and in consideration of associated response measures and the wide-ranging socioeconomic impacts of restrictive, or at times repressive, containment policies that may have destabilizing effects on conflict-affected children. The document will be revised on an ongoing basis to reflect: (1) new information about the impact of COVID-19 on CAAFAG programming and (2) requests for technical support and guidance. The document was translated into French, Spanish and Arabic, and two related webinars were also produced, one in [French](#) and one in [English](#).

In December, the CAAFAG TF launched a [Technical Note on Girls Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups](#), providing recommendations to field practitioners to take into consideration the needs of girls and to implement gender sensitive programming. The Technical Note includes recommendations on prevention of recruitment, formal and informal release of girls, reintegration outcomes and specific needs of girl survivors of sexual abuse, girls with children born out of sexual violence and girls with disabilities. The note was translated into French, Spanish and Arabic and was disseminated through a launch.

The CAAFAG TF implemented a capacity needs and gaps assessment to gather information on skills and technical knowledge needed to deliver quality CAAFAG programmes, as well as preferred learning approaches and gaps in existing learning materials.

The assessment was conducted through an online anonymous survey for field practitioners in charge of designing and implementing CAAFAG programs and through key informant interviews. 196 individuals from 29 countries responded to the online survey and 14 key informant interviews were conducted. The [finding](#) of the survey will inform the content of a CAAFAG Program Development Toolkit in 2021 and other activities of the Task Force.

2021 Priorities

For 2021, the CAAFAG TF is planning the development of a series of key resources for practitioners and will also create a set of tools to build capacity of field actors.

Key resources for development in 2021 include:

- CAAFAG Programme Development Toolkit
- Parenting Skills curriculum for parents of CAAFAG
- MHPSS for CAAFAG guidance
- Children associated with designated terrorist groups guidance
- Prevention of recruitment including engagement of armed actors guidance

Capacity building tools for field actors includes:

- Webinars on Girls Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups
- Pilot test Programme Development Toolkit
- Pilot-test training on Parenting Skills
- Revision of the CPIE training package for the CAAFAG module
- Contribution to mini workshops on CPMS Pillar 4 organised by the CPMS WG
- Setup of an online platform for community of practice to share experience on CAAFAG

Community-Level Child Protection Task Force

During the annual in-person meeting of the CPWG in Bangkok in late 2015, more than 100 CPiE practitioners and donors recognized the need for more coordinated interagency efforts towards strengthening Community-based Child Protection (CBCP) work. In 2016, the Community-Based Child Protection in Emergencies Task Force (CBCP Task Force) was formed to address this gap. The CBCP Task Force was started by Plan International, World Vision and UNICEF. Since the Alliance's launch in November 2016, the CBCP Task Force has been operating under this new interagency structure, changing its name in November 2019 to 'Community Level Child Protection Approaches' (CCP) to align with the language of the new Standard 17: Community Level Child Protection Approaches in the 2019 version of the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action. The purpose of the Community Level Child Protection Task Force (CCP TF) is to strengthen the evidence base for CCP programming by documenting innovative and promising practice and developing guidance and capacity building resources based on learning.

Key Priorities

- Develop a field guide for strengthening community-based child protection informed by a systematic review of literature and inputs from two pilot countries.
- Document and disseminate evidence-based good practice in mobile CCP programming.
- Revise the CCP Minimum Standard (16/17).
- Develop face-to-face and online capacity building resources and pilot training activities.
- Facilitate the sharing of capacity building, learning and knowledge resources through inter-agency forums.
- Create spaces for meaningful dialogue and reflection with key (CCP) initiatives as well as with partners in other humanitarian sectors.

Key Achievements

Over the course of the 2018-2020 reporting period, the CCP TF delivered on significant key priorities contributing to the [Strengthening Community-Level Approaches to Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Initiative](#). Resources and tools to facilitate dialogue, learning and the promotion of good practice include a Reflective Field Guide, a Capacity Building Package and an Online Learning Series, which were developed under the 2018-2020 Work Plan. Notably, throughout 2020 the Task Force sought to simultaneously promote ongoing work while also responding to calls for guidance on CCP approaches during COVID-19.

The following encapsulate the major achievements of CCP TF during 2018-2020 which led to the aforementioned resources or were impacted by them:

- Beginning in 2018, inter-agency task force representatives led a [systematic review of literature](#) on community-based child protection that extracted key terms and definitions related to community-based work. This was collated into a terminology reference resource that was published in 2019 as part of an [Alliance Definitions](#) series.
- Task Force members also provided input for the development of UNICEF's [Operational Guidelines on Community Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Humanitarian Settings: Three-tiered Support for Children and Families](#) and "[Supporting community-led child protection processes – A Guide and Toolkit](#)" designed by Professor Mike Wessells.
- In addition, CCP TF resources informed an update of a [Key Considerations Document and Menu of Resources](#).

- While in January 2019, work began on the [Reflective Field Guide: Community Level Approaches to Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) and the companion [Face-to-Face Capacity Building Package](#), the two resources launched in April 2020 with an online learning series. To showcase these resources and make them more accessible to the child protection actors, the CCP TF co-leads worked closely with the Knowledge Management Specialist to develop a [resource hub on the Alliance website](#).
- At the **2019 Annual Meetings**, the CCP TF organised a Marketplace, Face-to-face Meeting, and a Side Event on the new CPMS Standard 17. Highlights from the 2019 meeting included member agencies presenting their work to adapt the inter-agency Field Guide to their organizations and participant discussions around how to better conduct context analysis and improve community engagement and ownership.
- While developing the Field Guide and the Capacity Building Package in 2019, **consultations** were conducted in Sudan and the Philippines to pilot the tools in collaboration with national- and state-level members and child protection coordination mechanisms. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, planned pilot activities were cancelled. The CCP TF, however, is continuing to engage in opportunities to promote and disseminate these resources, including during the Alliance Annual Meeting in October 2020, where the Reflective Field Guide and accompanying resources were featured in the “Hot off the Press” session.
- In June 2020, in cooperation with the CPMS WG, the CCP TF held a webinar **launching the new CPMS 17 and showcasing the Reflective Field Guide** and accompanying resources. This webinar featured a panel discussion on the journey to CPMS #17, highlighting how the new standard differs from the previous one and the resources available to support adherence to the standard. The CCP TF’s CPMS Revision Task Team led the revision and development of the new CPMS Standard 17 through three rounds of revisions in 2019, informed by the Reflective Field Guide and the [Supporting Community-led Child Protection: Online Guide and Toolkit](#). The webinar also featured presentations on community-level approaches to child protection in the Philippines and Myanmar.
- Throughout the year, the CCP and Case Management (CM) TFs successfully conducted research on the role of community volunteers in case management. Research included a review of peer reviewed articles (145), Key Informant Interviews with 32 advisors, academics, and managers from various humanitarian and development contexts, and over 65 photo stories collected from community volunteers working in child protection responses. Country level research was conducted in Myanmar and Malawi with six NGO’s (both national and international) and focus group discussions and interviews were conducted directly with community volunteers working with the NGO’s. Key findings from the in-country and global research were presented at a side event during the Alliance Annual Meeting. The project lead and review committee members engaged attendees from 27 countries in developing recommendations based on the research findings. This initiative is generously funded by USAID/BHA and will continue in 2021.
- **In response to the Covid-19 pandemic**, the CCP TF developed [Working with Communities to Keep Children Safe](#), an Annex to the Alliance’s Technical Note that provides guidance for child protection actors on how to adapt community-level child protection activities to the challenges posed by the pandemic. The guidance encouraged child protection practitioners to understand how communities organize themselves to protect children during COVID-19 as well as how to work with communities to implement safe and effective ways to protect children in the context of COVID-19. The CCP TF generated this guidance based on the learning from past infectious disease outbreaks as well as on CPMS 17 and the Reflective Field Guide.
- To launch the guidance, the **CCP TF hosted a webinar**, featuring case studies from Bangladesh, Lebanon, and Mexico, highlighting how to leverage the Reflective Field Guide tools as well as how to generate effective partnerships with key local stakeholders, including children and faith leaders. This webinar was also an opportunity to showcase the Annex and answer any questions on its contents.

- At the **2020 Annual Virtual Meeting**, the CCP TF also organized a Market Place session (attended by over 60 participants), Face-Face Meeting (attended by over 60 people), and a side event on the findings from the Community Engagement in Case Management research. The CCP TF was also featured in the “Hot off the Press” session, where we shared the first video in the online learning series.

The results of a **CCP TF poll of 2020** virtual attendees showed that a majority have had to rely more on communities during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the continuation of essential child protection services, reflects one of the greatest challenges posed by COVID-19. Equally, this represents an important opportunity for the CCP TF to advocate for the mindset shift recommended in the Reflective Field Guide to more community-led approaches

Context and Challenges

The CCP TF encountered a few challenges during 2020. First, two new co-leads took over leadership of the TF at the start of the year. While there is generally a steep learning curve to take on such a coordination role, this was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the onset of the pandemic meant that piloting the Reflective Field Guide and associated tools in the Philippines had to be canceled. The focus on generating guidance and providing support for CPHA practitioners to adapt to COVID-19 meant that less time and emphasis could be placed on disseminating the new resources and encouraging their uptake. Finally, the pandemic and associated travel and meeting restrictions have impacted the Community Engagement in Case Management project, jointly implemented with the CMTF. The Project Lead had to quickly adapt research plans – pivoting the Project Lead and a consultant leading in-country research to hiring local research consultants in each country. While this was a challenge initially, it has resulted in richer research findings than would have been possible otherwise.

2021 Priorities

The 2021-2023 work plan aims to achieve a shift in mindset, a shift in practice, and a strengthening of the evidence base for community-level child protection. These activities build on the success of the previous work plan and seek to continue strengthening capacity and approaches in community-level child protection. Five key priorities include:

- Continued socialization on CPMS 17, the “Reflective Field Guide”, the COVID-19 guidance, and other resources on community-level and community-led child protection
- Advocacy towards donors, Alliance members, and the broader CP community on this shift in mindset and uptake of CPMS 17
- Support CP actors with an institutionalization checklist for CPMS 17
- Develop learning questions and conduct a review of relevant existing learning and promising practice around community-level child protection, culminating in evidence and advocacy briefs
- Continuation of the Community Engagement in Case Management project, working with pilot countries on an iterative “reflection to action” process to improve work with community volunteers in case management.

Family Strengthening Task Force

The goal of the Family Strengthening Task Force (FSTF) is to ensure children in humanitarian settings have improved psychosocial wellbeing and are better protected from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation through a positive strengthened family environment.

The FSTF was originally established as the Psychosocial Support for Families and Caregivers Task Force. During the first year, however, questions arose over the scope of the FSTF, and suggestions ranged from focusing more broadly on psychosocial support and including interventions directly for children to widening the focus to include other dimensions of family wellbeing. At the Alliance annual meeting in September 2017, the general recommendation favored keeping the focus of the task force on parents/caregivers but to expand the narrow focus on PSS for caregivers to a wider focus on family strengthening. This was endorsed by the Task Group in October 2017, and the Task Force name, overall outcome, and work plan were revised accordingly.

The FSTF is co-led by War Child Holland, Save the Children, and International Rescue Committee. Members represent a variety of organisations with wide geographical coverage.

Key Priorities

- Ensure CP practitioners have access to programmatic guidance and learning platforms that incorporate evidence generated on family strengthening.
- Develop/revise minimum standards related to Family Strengthening.
- Improve the evidence base for family strengthening programs in humanitarian settings.
- Improve inter-agency collaboration around interventions related to Family Strengthening in humanitarian settings.

Key Achievements

In 2018, the primary focus of the FSTF was to support the revision and development of the second edition of the Child Protection Minimum Standards which were published in 2019. The FSTF led the development of Standard 16 - Family Strengthening and co-led the revision of Standard 10 - Mental Health and Psychosocial Distress with the IASC MHPSS Reference Group. A range of different agencies, both from the FSTF and the IASC MHPSS Reference Group, participated in the review groups.

In 2017, the FSTF had developed a structured literature review and mapping of available interventions linked to the task force's focus. This piece of work was disseminated to all the FS members in 2018.

The FSTF regularly updated its members with research papers, publications, evaluations and e-learning modules addressing caregivers' wellbeing and shared a resilience-measuring tool.

In one of its global meetings, the FSTF hosted Sarah Harrison from the IASC MHPSS Reference Group, who presented and discussed Standard 10 - Mental Health and Psychosocial Distress.

The task force's 2019 knowledge-sharing activities mainly took place through the organisation of webinars and email updates for task force members. Key webinars highlighted the Real Fathers Programme in Uganda, the Lego Conference (focused on parenting), and Caring for the Caregivers.

The task force organised a face-to-face meeting at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Geneva in October. During the meeting, the task force reviewed the 2019 work plan, noted suggestions from members, and planned new activities for 2020.

In 2020, the Task Force updated the mapping of family strengthening resources and tools, providing an update to the initial mapping completed in 2017. With the support of three students from the American University in Washington DC, organized through Save the Children and guided/managed by the Task Force co-leads, including a focus group consultation with the larger Task Force, the mapping was updated in the second half of 2020. The first draft is currently being reviewed and edited by the Task Force co-leads and will be shared with the larger Task Force for feedback before being finalized and shared across the Alliance in 2021.

Context and Challenges

The Family Strengthening Task Force is distinct in its set-up from several other Task Forces/ Working Groups of the Alliance. Work plan contributions are mainly in-kind time, so there are budget constraints to developing dedicated resources such as an e-learning module on Family Strengthening. There are a large number of members but only a small number of them actively contribute to the work plan. Lack of member participation contributes to activities and initiatives moving forward very slowly or not at all. There is a need to increase the number of agencies taking a lead on or contributing to task force activities. This will increase the FSTF's ability to deliver on a wider range of activities.

This was further impacted by during in 2020 during COVID-10 when intern programs were halted at the co-lead organizations making it impossible to get additional support for the Task Force Workplan through those structures. In addition, since April 2020 IRC has not been co-leading the Task Force which has resulted in even less hands available to lead the Task Force. A possible replacement was indicated in December 2020 but this has not yet been finalised.

2021 Priorities

- Develop case-study formats and collect case-studies from the members of the Family Strengthening Task force that will support in sharing of best practices (to be edited and organized in a downloadable format).
- Finalize and share the updated resource mapping: create awareness of its existence through FSTF meetings, webinars, and other follow up.
- Continuation of webinar series, with the addition that we will focus more on interlinking the different webinars when it comes to topics discussed as well as linking the content of webinars to the case-study initiative. We also want to expand the reach of the webinars by conducting webinars for different time zones and in different languages. This is however a challenge due to time and language constraints.
- Exploring different methods of delivery has not been advancing the past year: in 2021 we hope to explore again how feasible this is and how to engage members from the Task Force to engage in this activity.
- Collaboration and connecting with other Task Forces members to reach more impact (by sharing of our specific task force knowledge across the different task forces) but as well as a possibility to create opportunity to work together and see whether with cross task force collaboration several work plan elements can be pushed forward (faster).

Unaccompanied and Separated Children Task Force

The origins of the Unaccompanied and Separated Children Task Force (UASC TF) predate the formation of the Alliance and the CP AoR and even the existence of the CPWG. Previously known as the IAWG UASC, this group came together in 1994 with the primary objectives of drafting the Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on UASC (published in 2004) and improving coordination amongst all agencies – UN, ICRC and NGOS – working on FTR/RFL to prevent and respond to UASC. The group became a Task Force under the Alliance upon its establishment in 2016.

Unlike other Alliance task forces, the existence of the UASC TF is not time bound, but rather the work will continue indefinitely because UASC occur in every emergency to a greater or lesser degree, and agencies need to coordinate their responses and ways of working to find durable solutions and improve support for UASC. The leadership structure of this task force follows an annual rotation. Each agency takes on co-leadership for a period of two years, with the rotation occurring on a staggered basis to allow for continuity. IOM started chairing the UASC IATF in 2017, was re-elected in 2018 and joined by IRC as co-chair in 2019. At the end of 2020, IRC became the new chair of the task force joined by UNHCR as co-chair.

In situations of conflict and natural disaster, the group's objectives are to provide global-level coordination to ensure harmonized response, update policies and address gaps in existing policy, support efforts to address capacity gaps in the implementation of UASC programmes, develop joint advocacy messages, and ultimately provide remote and/or on-the-ground technical support in rapid onset emergencies and on a case-by-case basis in more protracted emergencies.

Key Priorities:

- Ensure that technical standards and tools for UASC programming reflect the latest evidence and feedback from all relevant actors, including other sectors and local partners.
- Increase the ability of actors at all levels and contexts, particularly local actors, to access existing technical tools and knowledge on UASC in humanitarian contexts.
- Facilitate the coordination, participation and contributions of all UASC WG members as well as efficient collaboration between other groups and entities internal and external to The Alliance.
- Provide timely responses to all questions and issues addressed to the UASC WG.

Key Achievements

In line with the 2018-2020 Work Plan, the focus of the UASC TF over the last three years has mainly focused on capacity building through the development and dissemination of task force's central publications, the Field Handbook on UASC (2016) and the Tool Kit on UASC (2017).

In 2018, in the absence of a budget, the task force concentrated on activities that did not require funding. The UASC Task Force organised a survey with Child Protection field practitioners in February, answered by 103 respondents from 16 different organisations (3 UN agencies, the ICRC, 7 INGOs and 5 CSOs) in over 40 countries. The survey identified key challenges and gap, including lack of options for both interim and long-term alternative care; gaps in funding, human resources, capacities, and expertise (training) for Child Protection; complexities and difficulties in cross border FTR; and gaps in knowledge in the fields of UASC programming and case management.

Following the survey, IOM and UNICEF conducted two capacity-building webinars in March 2018 to present the two publications to field practitioners, with a thematic focus on UASC programming. Approximately 80 people viewed the live, English-language webinars; 261 people viewed the online version throughout 2018.

With IOM funding, translation of the two publications into French and Spanish started in November 2018; the Alliance provided funding to translate the Field Manual into Arabic.

The UASC Task Force was charged with revising CPMS Standard 13 on UASC under the leadership of the CPMS revision group. The work consisted of various phases of re-drafting and integrating comments provided by different rounds of consultation with technical experts and the public. A total of 3 versions were developed in this process.

In October 2018, IOM, as UASC Task Force chair and donor of last resort, provided funding for the elaboration of a ToT training package on the two publications consisting of presentations, exercises, and a trainer manual. A consultant from the LDWG ensured consistency and expertise in the training package. The package was tested on 24 participants of mixed technical expertise from the CPAoR, UNICEF, UNHCR, ICRC, IRC, IOM, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes Lausanne, and ISS (International Social Services) Switzerland in Geneva in December 2018.

In June, the UASC Task Force also participated in the preparation of advocacy messaging on the detention and separation of families of Central American nationals at the US border.

In 2019, key achievements in accordance with the UASC work plan included, the finalisation and collective review of a training of trainers (ToT) on UASC. (The training package was developed by the L&D WG and Child Safe Horizons and was reviewed by the UASC TF members, the Alliance coordinators, the L&D WG, the CM TF, and the CP AoR.)

The UASC actively participated in reviewing, re-drafting, and finalising the standard on UASC in the 2019 Edition of the CPMS, a process that began in 2018.

Translating, laying out, and printing the Spanish and French versions of UASC TF publications (2017: The Field Handbook and accompanying Toolkit).

The roll-out of the English and French versions (home-translated) of the ToT on UASC in Ethiopia (co-facilitated by IOM and the CP AoR) and Niger (planned to be co-facilitated by IOM, WVI, and CP AoR; the latter two cancelled last minute due to emergencies).

- Ethiopia: 24 participants (11 UN agencies, 6 national government, 4 national NGOs, 3 INGOs [all were national staff]). Ethiopia participant agencies have committed to replicating the training before the end of March 2020. Two participants were invited to co-facilitate a regional ToT in Dakar, which is cancelled for now.
- Niger: 23 participants (13 UN agencies, 3 INGOs, 2 NGOs, 2 government [all were national staff except 2 international staff], 1 sub-national CP sub-cluster coordinator, 1 IOM member, and 1 ICRC member). Replication in sub-regions of the training is to be re-confirmed.
- English and French (re-)prints of both publications were distributed to all participants and their organisations/institutions.
- Invitations were organised through the national child protection sub-cluster with a joint, agreed-upon list of questions/criteria.
- Shared access to UASC ToT by Colombia coordination platforms was supported via the L&D WG in preparation of their regional training on child protection in December 2019.

In 2020, the UASC TF continued to pursue key objectives in line with the Work Plan, while also making important contributions to the Alliance COVID-19 response. Some of the activities organised by the UASC TF were ultimately cancelled due to COVID-19-related measures.

For example, the UASC TF organized and coordinated field roll-out of the English and Arabic training of trainers (ToT) including Teach Back sessions in the second week on UASC in Tunisia - targeting government and partner (UNICEF, UNHCR, IRC, etc) counterparts, as well as IOM staff of Tunisia, Libya and Algeria, in March 2020. The sessions were cancelled due to Covid-19 safety measures. The Task Force also similarly coordinated field roll-out of regional-level ToT in French, in Senegal in May 2020, but it was cancelled as well due to Covid-19 safety measures.

In response to COVID-19, the UASC TF contributed to the Alliance Technical Note: Protection of Children during the Coronavirus Pandemic and the resulting Annexes such as [Guidance for Alternative Care Provision During COVID-19](#), [Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Children and Alternative Care](#), [Technical Note: COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Liberty](#), [Technical Note: COVID-19 and Child Labour](#).

Contributing to the sector's understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on UASC, the Task Force organized interagency ad hoc calls, compiling documentation on issues affecting UASC and identified seven key areas needing more guidance: FTR/Transportation, quarantine measures, prevention of family separation, interim care, returns, demobilization, stigma.

In 2020, the Task Force also continued efforts to disseminate the [Handbook](#) and [Toolkit](#) on Unaccompanied and Separated Children. Highlights include, launching [the Unaccompanied and Separated Children hub](#) – a depository of resources on UASC, which was officially launched during the Alliance annual meeting in October 2020.

The Task Force also completed translation of the Arabic version of the Handbook and Toolkit publications as well as the PPT slides for the related training package and launched the French, Arabic and Spanish versions of both publications online through the [Alliance webpage](#) and the [Hub](#).

To promote use of the Handbook and Toolkit amongst child protection practitioners in the field, the UASC TF shipped hard copies of the publications across IOM country missions.

Finally, the UASC TF participated in the virtual Annual Meeting and facilitated all UASC IATF sessions.

Context and Challenges

For most of 2018, the work plan remained without a budget and it was only during the last trimester that the most urgent work plan activities were funded by the chair, IOM. In 2019, coordination between all member agencies (and the CP AoR/child protection sub-clusters for coordination in the region of the UASC TOT roll-out) presented challenges, due to each agency's different priorities and timelines.

Last year, the trainings of trainers on UASC to be conducted in Tunisia and Senegal from March to May 2020—in line with the UASC TF 2019 Work Plan—were cancelled last minute due to the implementation of COVID-19 measures.

2021 Priorities

- Further dissemination of the Field Handbook and Toolkit in the form of webinars, further roll-out of the TOT, and online factsheets in all available languages.
- Make TOT on UASC available online
- Map regional fora/working groups related to UASC and alternative care, and establish and maintain links to disseminate UASC TF tools and guidance
- Conduct capacity building efforts on UASC on the Handbook and Toolkit through webinars, workshops or trainings, including with adaptation for remote locations with limited technological link
- Develop and disseminate guidance on Prevention of Family Separation in relation to infectious disease outbreaks
- Develop and disseminate Family Tracing and Reunification guidance, including cross-border reunification, in relation to infectious disease outbreaks
- Adapt and disseminate existing advocacy notes for UASC related to migration and detention
- Strengthen collaboration with other Alliance WG and TF and joint initiatives developed and implemented



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