A Systems Approach to Child Protection

Strengthen comprehensive child protection efforts in development settings
Child Protection definitions used by Plan

Child protection:
The measures that are taken to prevent and respond to all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children.

Violence against children:
Includes all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children in accordance to 19 of the UNCRC.

Child protection system:
A comprehensive and sustainable approach to preventing and responding to child protection issues, comprising of the set of laws, policies, regulations and services required across all social sectors, especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice to respond to and prevent protection-related risks.
Violence, exploitation and abuse appears where?

Violence, exploitation and abuse occur in the homes, families, schools, care and justice systems, workplaces and communities across all contexts, including as a result of conflict and natural disasters.

Key child protection issues in development settings

* Gender-based violence in schools

* Harmful practices/ Child marriage

* Child labour
Child Protection Systems: what they are, why do we want them?

*Differs from earlier child protection efforts traditionally focused on single thematic issues, such as HIV and AIDS, disability, child trafficking, street children = fragmentation of services (dependent on donor trends)

*Responds to the main conclusions of the 2008 Secretary-General’s Study on Violence Against Children and General Comment 13 by expanding protective mechanisms to more holistic, comprehensive and long-term responses

*Coordination between child protection and other sectors including health, education, finance and justice is key

*Plan emphasizes prevention, capacity building and data collection
Linkages are essential

Plan works for the protection of children, their families and communities through supporting a range of interventions at global, national and community levels to create a protective environment for children. Plan promotes strategies that address underlying causes, behaviors, and attitudes, which threaten peace and the achievement of children’s rights.

CBCPM’s= community-based child protection mechanisms
Child Protection mechanism:
Prevention, capacity building and data collection is key

**Prevention**

*Access to and completion of 9 years of quality education*
*Safe formal/ non-formal learning environment (Prohibit violence in schools by law)*
*Special attention to the gender dimension of violence*
*Birth registration*
*Special attention to vulnerable groups*
*Promote child participation in child protection, community and school based responses*

**Capacity building**

*Capacity building of e.g. children, families, teachers, community leaders, child-friendly Police officers*
*Encourage participation through complaints and reporting mechanisms*

**Strengthen data collection**
Main components of Child Protection Systems

- State
- District government
- Local government
- Community
- Family
- Child
- Justice
- Education
- Health
- Finance
- Labour
- Social Development, Women & children
- Civil Society

CIVIL SOCIETY
A balanced approach to child protection programming

Bring the perspectives of children and grass roots organisations to the policy table.

Advocacy work for improved legislation and policy at the national level and for increased resource allocation

Public awareness raising

Coordination of child protection efforts by government and NGO actors at district and national levels

The inclusion of marginalised children and addressing their protection rights through community based responses and district and national protection systems

The capacity of district child protection services to promote wellbeing of children who have experienced violence
Some key recommendations

Increase support to strengthen CBCPMs that are recognized and directly linked to the formal child protection system, and avoid the establishment of parallel structures;

Increase research and analysis to build upon traditional practices that support children’s protection and participation; and transform harmful traditional practices;

Increase gender analysis and gender sensitivity in all child protection system developments; including greater efforts to mainstream the engagement and role of men and fathers;
Children’s Opportunity Star

- 2. School
- 3. Safety
- 4. Marriage
- 5. Safe Sex
- 6. Confidence
- 7. Decision making
- 8. Money
- 10. Other