



CHILD PROTECTION WORKING GROUP OF THE PCWG TERMS OF REFERENCE MARCH 3, 2008

BACKGROUND

The Protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG) was established in September 2005 as part of the humanitarian reform and is accountable to the Emergency Relief Coordinator. To ensure comprehensive attention to the range of specific protection concerns, the PCWG agreed that the protection response would benefit from being divided into overarching and generally applicable “functional components” or “areas of responsibility” under the cluster lead.¹ Focal point agencies were designated for recognized areas of protection expertise and tasked with ensuring an effective response in its specialized protection sector in collaboration with other participating agencies. Under the unique protection cluster architecture, UNICEF is designated as the Focal point Agency for Child Protection.²

MISSION STATEMENT

In line with the mission of the PCWG, the Child Protection Working Group aims to facilitate a more predictable, accountable and effective child protection response in complex emergencies, disasters and other such situations. The Child Protection Working Group seeks to support cohesive, interagency child protection responses at the field-level through global level advocacy, standards and policy setting, capacity building and tool development. Although UNICEF is accountable to the Cluster lead to ensure that child protection activities are undertaken³, the Child Protection Working Group views itself primarily accountable to the beneficiaries.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the Child Protection Working Group is to promote child wellbeing and to protect and fulfil children’s rights to protection from abuse, exploitation and violence in emergencies as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights, humanitarian treaties and conventions, as well as national laws.

PARTICIPATION

Building on the essential inter-agency and collaborative approach to the protection response, the Child Protection Working Group brings together on an equal basis NGOs, UN agencies and other international actors in line with the Principles of Partnership endorsed by the Global Humanitarian Platform⁴. Current members include: CCF, Columbia University’s Child Protection Learning Network, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children Alliance, Terre des Hommes, Women’s Commission, World Vision, OCHA, UNHCR and UNICEF. ICRC also supports the CPWG as an observer.

COORDINATION AND REPORTING

The Child Protection Working Group is chaired by UNICEF with support from core Geneva-based Child Protection agencies. Annual planning meetings will be held to exchange field-level experiences, review current trends and gaps in child protection and develop annual interagency work plans. In between annual meetings, coordination and reporting mechanisms will focus on tracking results and informing both the PCWG and the Child Protection Working Group on periodic progress made on work plan activities.

¹ Principle Meeting, Cluster working Group on Protection Progress Report, December 2005

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ The Global Humanitarian Platform is a forum bringing together the three main families of the humanitarian community – NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the UN and related international organizations. The Principles of Partnership were endorsed in July 2007 and are available at www.globalhumanitarianplatform.org.

SUB-OBJECTIVES FOR GLOBAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- Undertake advocacy to raise awareness of child protection as a vital component of Humanitarian Response and a life saving intervention in crisis. This includes ensuring that child protection is adequately represented and funded within the Humanitarian Reform Agenda and within the Cluster Approach.
- Build Stronger Interagency Child Protection Capacity through Training, Staffing and Development of standards, Guidelines and Tools.
- In Collaboration with the PCWG, ensure that Child Protection is Adequately Mainstreamed into the Broader Protection Agenda, Other Clusters' Work, and within the HC Strengthening Initiative.
- Ensure Appropriate Linkages and Complementarity with other Interagency Child Protection Forums and Initiatives.

SUB-OBJECTIVES FOR FIELD SUPPORT

- Develop guidance on managing effective child protection responses within the cluster approach, including how to establish and manage field level Child Protection Working Groups and how to develop successful partnerships with other protection actors.
- Receive and respond to requests from the field and the PCWG for provision of Technical and Policy Advice on Specific Child Protection Issues, including short-term, inter-agency technical support missions to the field as necessary.
- Ensure Connectivity to the field through maintaining the Child Protection Working Group webpage, direct field participation in global initiatives and work plan activities and annual global Child Protection Working Group meetings.

WORK PLAN

To assist in building an effective and comprehensive protection response, the Child Protection Working Group will develop and implement an annual work plan which will be incorporated into the overall PCWG work plan. The work plan will include a set of prioritized activities and outputs and specific timeframes and responsible and collaborating organizations. In addition to child protection specific activities, joint PCWG/Child Protection Working Group activities will also be identified.