

## SECTION A: ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN'S LIVING SITUATION AND COPING MECHANISMS

Katherine Williamson, IRC Haiti, September 2010

### 1. Child's Bio-data

Child's First Name: ..... Second Name: ..... Third Name: .....

Nickname: ..... Date of birth: ..... Gender: Female ☐ Male ☐

*Current location:*

Department: ..... Commune: ..... Zone: .....

Specific address: ..... Telephone no: .....

**Separation status of child:** Separated ☐ Unaccompanied ☐ Accompanied ☐

**Care Status of the child:** Living with relatives ☐ Living with former community members ☐

Living with previously unknown adult ☐ Living alone ☐ Living with other children ☐ Living with other youth ☐ Living with partner ☐ Living on street ☐ No living arrangement ☐

### 2. Information on Family and Tracing Needs *(to be filled in if the child may need tracing but has not seen an FTR Caseworker)*

Is the child separated from their previous primary caregiver? Yes ☐ No ☐

Does the child need family tracing? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, for whom?

First Name: ..... Second Name: ..... Third Name: .....

Relationship to child: .....

Current or last known location: Department: ..... Commune: .....

Zone: ..... Specific address: .....

Is the child in contact with the person to be traced? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, contact details: .....

Has the child been referred for tracing services? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, to which agency? ..... Caseworker Name: ..... Caseworker No: .....

### 3. Information on Child's Access to Services and Psychosocial Wellbeing *(from child and caregiver)*

Does the child have any known health issues? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

If yes, give details .....

Is the child accessing appropriate health services? Yes ☐ No ☐

Does the child have any disabilities? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the child accessing appropriate support for their disability? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, give details .....

Is the child attending school / vocational training? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, give details of school / training institution, grade / type:.....  
.....

If no, why not? .....

Does the child attend community or social events? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, give details: .....

If no, why not? .....

Does the child have close friendships? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, give details: .....

Has the child shown any emotional or behavioural disturbances, (eg bed wetting, nightmares, sleeplessness, fearfulness, withdrawal, antisocial behaviour etc) Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, give details: .....

#### 4. Details of Household in which the child is living

Details of all persons living in the same household as the child:

Name	Gender M / F	Age	Relationship to Head of Household
HoH			Self

Is the household registered with camp management? Yes ☐ No ☐ Reg No: .....

Is the household receiving distributions and other services as appropriate? Yes ☐ No ☐

Does the household appear to be in a better or worse socioeconomic situation than others in the community? Better ☐ Similar ☐ Worse ☐ Details .....

Are there any household members who the child is particularly close to? (*please name*) .....  
.....

## 5. Caregiver's Information, Wishes and Concerns *(talk to the Caregiver on their own)*

Caregiver's First Name: ..... Second Name: ..... Third Name: .....

Relationship of Caregiver to child: ... ..

Location of origin:..... Department: .....Commune:.....

Zone:..... Specific address: .....Telephone no: .....

How did the child come to be living with the caregiver? .....

.....

.....

What are the caregiver's expectations of the child whilst living in their household? .....

.....

How do these expectations differ from those of other children in the household? .....

.....

How long does the caregiver expect the living arrangement to continue? .....

If it is not considered on-going, how does the caregiver think that the child's living situation will be resolved? .....

.....

.....

Does the household plan to relocate? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, when?..... Where to?.....

Do they plan to take the child with them? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, what arrangements are they making for the child?.....

.....

What care arrangement do they think would be in the best interest of the child? .....

.....

## 6. Child's Information, Wishes and Concerns *(talk to the child on their own)*

*If the child is living alone or with other children / youth...*

Where does the child sleep? .....

Who is responsible for the shelter?

First Name: ..... Second Name: ..... Third Name: .....

How does the child access food and non food items? .....

Does the child work? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what sort of work does the child do? .....

Who are the main economic and social supports for the child?.....

1. First Name: ..... Second Name: ..... Third Name: .....
2. First Name: ..... Second Name: ..... Third Name: .....
3. First Name: ..... Second Name: ..... Third Name: .....

What are the child's main concerns about their living arrangement?.....

.....

*If the child is in a care arrangement...*

Does the child wish to remain in their current care arrangement? Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐

***If yes or potentially,*** does the child have any problems within the current care arrangement and if so, what are these and how could they be addressed?.....

.....

.....

What is the child's role in the household? .....

***If no,*** why not?.....

.....

Is there anyone within the community who the child would feel comfortable living with? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, First Name: ..... Second Name: ..... Third Name: .....

Relationship to child: .....

Current location: Zone:..... Specific address: .....

If no, does the child know of any other viable care alternatives? (give details) .....

.....

What would the child like to happen in regards to care in the long term? .....

.....

**7. Summary of information provided from those around the child on what care arrangement they think would be in the best interests of the child**

Name	Relationship to child	Opinion on BIC	Specific Concerns


DRAFT

## SECTION B: SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

**1. Is the child in an appropriate care arrangement?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐

Details: .....

**2. Is the child in a stable care arrangement?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐

Details: .....

**3. Is the child in a protective care arrangement?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐

Details: .....

**4. Is the child accessing appropriate and necessary services?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐

**5. Is the current care arrangement promoting the child's psychosocial wellbeing?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐ Details .....

**6. Is the child experiencing or at risk of abuse, exploitation or neglect from the caregiver / household / community?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐ Details .....

**7. Does the caregiver have the resources to provide adequate care for the child?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐ Details .....

**8. Does the child have a positive social support system?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐

Details: .....

**9. Is the child exposed to negative influences?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐

Details: .....

**10. Does the child have positive coping mechanisms?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐

Details: .....

**11. Does the child have risky coping mechanisms?**

Yes ☐ Potentially ☐ No ☐

Details: .....

**12. What care options are available to the child?**

1 .....

2 ..... 3 .....

4 ..... 5 .....

**13. Based on an evaluation of the above information, what care arrangement would you recommend?**

14. Why?

15. What support would be needed, if any, to ensure that this care arrangement works?

16. Does the child need support to access services, and if so, which?

Health Yes ☐ No ☐ Details: .....

Education / Vocational Training Yes ☐ No ☐ Details: .....

Psychosocial Yes ☐ No ☐ Details: .....

Other Yes ☐ No ☐ Details: .....

17. Who in the community will be responsible for monitoring the care arrangement?

First Name: ..... Second Name: ..... Third Name: .....

Current location: Zone: ..... Specific address: ..... Contact details: .....

How often will a care caseworker follow up? .....

**Name of Caseworker:** .....

**Signature of Caseworker:** ..... **Date:** .....

**Name of Case Co-ordinator:** .....

**Signature of Case Co-ordinator:** ..... **Date:** .....

## Instructions for completion of the Assessment of Children's Living Situation and Coping Mechanisms

Completion of this form involves a process of consulting the child, caregiver, and those around the child. Section A is set out in a questionnaire format, and can be used to guide the information gathering process. Section B should be used to summarise all the information gathered and make recommendations for further action. Once discussed with the Case Co-ordinator, child, and caregivers where necessary, this will then be used as the basis of the Care Plan.

### SECTION A

**1. Child's Bio-data:** This section is the basic registration of the child and should be filled out upon the first meeting with the child. This information should then be shared with the Case Co-ordinator to ensure that they update the database.

**2. Information on Family Tracing Needs:** This section is meant to screen whether the child is in need of family tracing services. It is not meant to gather comprehensive information for tracing purposes. If it is found that a child is separated from their previous primary caregiver and would like support to locate them, then the caseworker should make a referral to the relevant agency responsible for family tracing and reunification (FTR).

**3. Information on Child's Access to Services and Psychosocial Wellbeing:** This section should be completed with information from the child and caregiver as necessary. Whilst information on access to services may be completed when registering the child, information on psychosocial wellbeing should be gathered over a series of monitoring visits in order to get a full picture.

- For the question 'Does the child have any known health issues?', the 'Unknown' box should be ticked for any child under the age of 5 who has not had a health check within the preceding 6 months.
- For the question 'Has the child shown any emotional or behavioural disturbances?', consider the whole range of potential symptoms related to trauma, separation, fear and grief, according to the age of the child.

**4. Details of Household in which the child is living:** Household should be defined as the people who live and eat together. This may be a caregiver and their family, a group of children / youth, or the partner of an adolescent. The Head of Household (HoH) should be listed first, and then everyone else, detailing their relationship to the HoH.

For the question 'Does the household appear to be in a better or worse socioeconomic situation than others in the community?', consider:

- The general living environment in the household
- Whether anyone in the household has a formal or informal income

**5. Caregiver's Information, Wishes and Concerns:** This section should be completed only if there is someone specifically providing care for the child. The caregiver should be interviewed on their own. The caseworker should use these questions to help ascertain the stability and protectiveness of the care relationship. If the caregiver plans to relocate with or without the child, the caseworker should inform them to contact Camp Management before they do so, to inform them of the address of relocation or the new living arrangements of the child.

- The questions: 'What are the caregiver's expectations of the child whilst living in their household?' and 'How do these expectations differ from those of other children in the household?', are aimed at ascertaining whether a child is at risk of becoming a restavek. However, the caseworker should



observe and verify with neighbours and other community members if it is suspected that the child may be or be at risk of becoming a restavek.

**6. Child's Information, Wishes and Concerns:** This section should be completed once the caseworker has engaged the child.

Questions in the section '*If the child is living alone or with other children / youth...*' aim at finding out the child's social supports and coping mechanisms and understanding whether these are positive or negative for the child

- For the Question 'Does the child work?' attention should be paid to the definition of child labour in ascertaining whether or not it constitutes child labour and is positive or negative for the child.
- For the Question 'Who are the main economic and social supports for the child?', the caseworker should spend some time with the child understanding who are the people in the child's world. It may be useful to use the **flow diagram** approach to help understand who are the main economic and social supports.
- The **flow diagram** technique can also be used to identify potential alternative care options for children who do not want to remain in their current care arrangement.
- The question 'What would the child like to happen in regards to care in the long term?' should be ascertained through discussion with the child about the different options available to them, and guidance on the potential risks of different options. What is written should reflect the child's wishes even if these are different to those of the caseworker.

**7. Summary of information provided from those around the child on what care arrangement they think would be in the best interests of the child:** The information documented in this part of the form should summarise discussions that the caseworker has held with people around the child. People who are significant in the child's life may be identified by using **flow diagram** and **social mapping** techniques. They may be good friends, community members, teachers, health professionals, relatives etc. The caseworker should spend time with each person explaining their role and that they are trying to assess and identify the best way to support the child, before eliciting their views.

## SECTION B

Each of the questions from 1 to 11 summarises the information gathered and addresses the criteria necessary to ensure that the child is in a positive care arrangement. It is recognised that the child may be in a caring environment but with a carer who is unable to provide for the child, and that in some cases, it may be possible to support the carer to better provide for the child. This is reflected in the 'Potentially' option.

1. Is the care arrangement appropriate: Consider whether the carer able to address the specific needs of the child. These may be related to disability, health, or age / gender. Pay particular attention to adolescent girls in living arrangements with partners.
2. Is the child in a stable care arrangement: If the child is with a caregiver, consider:
  - Does the caregiver feel responsible for the child?
  - Does the child want to stay with the caregiver?
  - Is the caregiver planning to relocate, and if so, will they take the child with them?

If the child is living alone or with other children / youth / a partner, consider how stable the living arrangements are.

3. Is the child in a protective care arrangement? Consider whether the child safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation within their care arrangement?
4. Is the child accessing appropriate and necessary services? Consider:
  - Health services
  - Disability support
  - Education / vocational training
5. Is the current care arrangement promoting the child's psychosocial wellbeing? Consider:
  - Community / social events
  - Friendships
  - Attitude of the caregiver to the child
  - Symptoms of psychosocial distress
6. Is the child experiencing or at risk of abuse, exploitation or neglect from the caregiver / household / community? Consider:
  - Is the child working and does the work that the child is doing constitute child labour?
  - Is the child being exploited for their labour? (restavek or street children)
  - Are there any concerns that the child is at risk of physical punishment?
  - Are there any concerns that the child is being neglected? (this will be the case for all children under 15 who do not have a stable and appropriate caregiver)
  - Does the child report on-going verbal abuse?
  - Is the child exposed to or at risk of sexual abuse and / or exploitation? (this will be the case for many girls in sexual partnerships)
7. Does the caregiver have the resources to provide adequate care for the child?
8. Does the child have a positive social support system? Consider whether the child has an adequate network of people around them who will offer support and protection when needed.
9. Is the child exposed to negative influences? Consider:
  - The character of the child and whether the child is generally resilient and knows their own mind, or whether they are easily influenced by others.
  - Whether the child and the people around them are engaged in risky behaviour

10 & 11 Does the child have positive / risky coping mechanisms? Consider how the child is accessing resources such as food and non food items and whether this places them at risk.

Questions 12 – 17 detail the options available to the child, the caseworkers recommendation and justification, forms of support including access to services that are needed to ensure adequate care, who will be responsible for day-to-day monitoring, and how often a caseworker will follow up.

The completed forms should be discussed and signed off by the Case Co-ordinator.