



Briefing note to ensure child protection mainstreaming

STANDARD 25: CAMP MANAGEMENT AND CHILD PROTECTION

In emergencies, children's risks and exposure to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation are further increased. Violations take place in health clinics, during food distributions, at water points, in schools and sometimes directly due to humanitarian workers' actions or non-actions. Many threats to the safety and wellbeing of children can be diminished or even eradicated through timely and child-sensitive provision of humanitarian aid across all sectors. We all therefore have a critical role to play in protecting children.

Child protection in emergencies is the prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children.



To mainstream child protection means to ensure child protection considerations inform all aspects of humanitarian action. It also minimizes the risks of children being violated by programmes designed without proper consideration for children's safety or wellbeing. **Mainstreaming child protection is an essential part of compliance with the 'do no harm' principle that applies to all humanitarian action.**

The Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS) are **companion standards to the Sphere standards**, and each standard is accompanied by key actions, targets, indicators and guidance notes. The CPMS include eight standards on mainstreaming child protection within other sectors. The **mainstreaming standards** complement sector-specific guidelines and standards, as well as Sphere and companions.

What to avoid!

Have these situations occurred in an emergency where you have worked?

A refugee site-planner located the Child Friendly Spaces and the Temporary Learning Spaces next to each other. When activities started, the CFS games and recreational activities ended up distracting students in the TLS. To ensure concentration during lessons, community members cancelled all morning activities at the CFS. In addition, out-of-school adolescent boys and girls never participated in the CFS activities as they perceived it as a designed for school children's afternoon recreations. Child protection (and other) actors set up activities without coordination with camp management, resulting in parallel or even competing activities, as well as conflicts with the IDP population.

Situations like these can be avoided with better communication and coordination.

STANDARD 25: CAMP MANAGEMENT AND CHILD PROTECTION

"Child protection concerns are reflected in the assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation of camp management programmes. The safety and wellbeing of girls and boys of all ages living in camps is safeguarded through camp management structures." CPMS Standard 25

They aim to:

1. Expose some of the 'hidden' links between the sector's humanitarian assistance and child protection;
2. Suggest key actions for child protection workers, as well as humanitarians in other sectors to ensure child protection is properly addressed in each sector;
3. Provide a menu of possible indicators, with targets, to assess progress towards reaching the Standards;
4. Give guidance on how workers in other sectors can ensure their programmes are accessible and beneficial to children.

The main aim of managing camps is to create the space needed to deliver protection and help effectively. This affects child protection in several ways: through the way the camp is physically planned, the way support is distributed or the way decisions are made that affect children's lives. The camp management team has a responsibility to make sure that children are not exposed to threats in the camp, and that if specific children at risk are identified, their needs are assessed and action is taken to adapt or target help to them. As a result, camp management staff with responsibility towards children should have skills and commitment related to protecting

children. To achieve this standard requires respectful dialogue between actors in both the Camp Management and Child Protection Sectors. **The Child Protection Working Group invites you to join us in that dialogue.**

Below are possible areas for further discussion and action planning between Camp Management and Child Protection in your context:

- What systems are in place to ensure information sharing and referrals between child protection and camp management actors?
- How can child protection and camp managers work together to ensure all children are able to benefit from camp management and child protection services, including children with disabilities, unaccompanied children and other potentially excluded groups of children?

To take this dialogue further, please contact _____ (locally) or the child protection focal point in your agency. If you would rather seek global guidance, go to: www.globalccmcluster.org/ and www.cpwg.net

Domiz camp, Dohuk, Iraq

"Children are everywhere in Domiz camp" says Francine Uenuma of Save the Children. In February 2013, NRC reported 7500 households in the camp, which could officially support 2145. And the refugees kept coming. In June 2013, there were "40000 people in a camp designed for a ¼ of that number".

There are conflicting reports on the actual number of refugees in Domiz. As of August 2013 there is no available disaggregated data on the number and/or ages of girls and boys in the camp, but there is agreement that the camp population exceeds capacity. The camp is managed by the Kurdistan Regional Government, who do their best to accommodate the refugees but the overcrowding and continual new arrivals impact daily life. Lack of clarity about plans for the camp's infrastructure, as well as limited capacity for administration and communication with the refugees, especially the children, pose significant risks to people living in the camp.

