WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE IN TIMES OF COVID-19

Introducing the Community-Level Child Protection Task Force’s COVID-19 Guidance
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Technical Note: Protection of Children during the Coronavirus Pandemic (v.1)
Where to find the technical note and other annexes

https://cpie.info/COVID19Note
Webinar agenda

1. Background

2. Introducing the Guidance Note

3. Country Presentations:
   • Bangladesh, Lebanon, Mexico
   • Q&A

4. Q&A in relation to presentations
Child Protection Minimum Standard 17

STANDARD

Children live in communities that promote their well-being and prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children before, during and after humanitarian crises.
Community-level Approaches to Child Protection

A Reflective Field Guide

All resources can be found here:
https://cpie.info/ccp
INTRODUCING THE CCP GUIDANCE NOTE

Working with communities to keep children safe in times of COVID-19

By Caroline Veldhuizen (SC), Rinske Ellermeijer (WCH) and Lucy Hillier (Community Child Protection Exchange)
Key findings of this report

Up to 85 million more girls and boys worldwide may be exposed to physical, sexual and/or emotional violence over three months as a result of COVID-19 quarantine.

We believe many of 13 million extra child marriages predicted by UNFPA will occur in the years immediately following the crises, with at least 4 million more girls married in the next two years.

A national assessment supported by World Vision and coalition partners in Bangladesh revealed beatings by parents or guardians had increased by 42% and that there was a 40% increase of calls to the child helpline.
COVID-19 GUIDANCE NOTE: Working with communities to keep children safe

1. Understanding how communities organize themselves to protect children in times of COVID-19

2. Working with communities to implement safe and effective ways to protect children in times of COVID-19
   ✓ Safe, child-friendly and effective awareness raising in light of COVID-19
   ✓ Strengthen the family and caregiving environment to promote children’s healthy development and keep them safe
   ✓ Monitoring and referral of highly vulnerable children and families

3. The health, safety and wellbeing of community members
Message 1 - Work with communities to understand how they organise themselves to protect children during COVID-19

The illustrations used here were developed by Guide and Toolkit for supporting a community-led approach to child protection. communityledcp.org
Message 2- Work with communities to strengthen the monitoring and referral of highly vulnerable children and their families

The illustrations used here were developed by Guide and Toolkit for supporting a community-led approach to child protection. communityledcp.org
Message 3- Work with communities on a holistic approach in promoting children’s safety and healthy development in the homes

Above: Tips for parents and caregivers during COVID-19 School Closures: Supporting children’s wellbeing and learning (in the guidance links)
Message 4 – Be creative and learn new skills
My name is Luzuko Sonkapu, I am 18 years old,
Bangladesh
Community Level Engagement in Refugee Camp

By: Krissie Hayes, CP AoR Coordinator
Context Overview

Context overview of Refugee Camps in Cox’s Bazar

- Largest refugee camp in the world with 860,175 individuals – 51% are children
- 8\textsuperscript{th} April, restrictions on access to the camp imposed to contain COVID-19
- Only Child Protection critical service permitted was “case management”
- Maximum 137 Child Protection case workers permitted in camps on any given day

Child Protection Concerns observed in camps COVID-19

- Increase Violence against Children (including notable rise violence in the home)
- Increase Child Marriage
- Lost and missing children
- Dangers and injuries
- Increase exposure to trafficking and smuggling
- Psychosocial distress and anxiety

Situation required dramatic increase in focus, resources and attention to ensure community level mechanisms to protect children!
Community Level Child Protection a priority for CP Sub-Sector

Pre-COVID 19

Pre-established community level engagement

• CBCP programs
  • 865 Community Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPCs)
  • Engagement with religious and community leaders

• Volunteers
  • Volunteers trained to support various CP partner activities

Community-level engagement established and supported by CP partners directly

COVID-19 shift

Need to almost exclusively rely on community-level CP groups

• Smaller groups (4-5) of Community Child protection members and volunteers relied upon for all CP activities
  • PSS
  • Awareness raising
  • Positive parenting
  • Monitoring CP risks
  • Responding/intervening for CP risks
  • Referrals!

• Volunteers relied on for case management with remote supervision

Community-level engagement now led by communities with CP Sub-Sector
Deep dive: Monitoring and referral of highly vulnerable children and families (guidance section 2.4)

Communities and volunteers have primary responsibility for child protection in COVID 19

- **Communities** monitor child protection concerns to share information to CPSS
- **Community level focal points** identified (by communities) to respond to specific CP risks, for example
  - Who in the community intervenes to prevent child marriage (e.g. religious leader)?
  - Who in the community does a child turn to for PSS?
  - Who in the community is focal point in event of separation
- **Volunteers** have up to date referral pathways

Tools to support

- CPSS interim Guidance note **priority intervention 2: Strengthening Community Level Protection**
- Alternative Care CXB guidance – focus on **community level planning** to pre-identify preferred temporary caregiver
- Guidance on supporting Volunteers remotely
- Guidance on remote case management through volunteers

*More under development*
Challenges and opportunities to community level engagement in times of COVID 19

Challenges

- Language for remote support
- Telecommunications
- Data collection and monitoring
- Rumours
- Community commitments

Opportunities

- Empowerment of communities
- Opportunity for strengthened ownership/leadership by community actors
- Increased buy-in for future “bottom-up” approaches!
Covid-19 Guidance Working with communities to keep children safe

Key take-aways for CP Sub-Sector in CXB

• CPSS in process of developing Guidance Note on CLCP for CXB in COVID 19

• Key considerations we need to strengthen:
  • Encouraging “soft skills” when engaging with communities
  • Engaging adolescents and youth
  • Reducing rumours and stigma
  • Protecting health, safety and well-being of key community members
  • Support to communities to strengthen Caring for Child Survivors
Lebanon

Working with faith communities to keep children safe in times of COVID-19

By: Zoubeida Abouasaly (Zsazsa), Child Protection & Advocacy Technical Lead, World Vision Lebanon
Engaging faith leaders to contribute in keeping children safe in times of COVID-19 by:

1- Supporting their initiatives to promote safe and healthy behavior.
2- Enabling them to take leadership in tackling stigma and fear in the community.
3- Enriching their care for the most vulnerable children towards protection risks.
4- Fostering collaboration of faith leaders with other parts of CP system (services etc).
Results in numbers:

1. Children reached - 28750
2. Parents reached – 11500 parents and caregivers
3. Families reached - 5900
4. CP System – 9 local CP system
5. Faith leaders – 60 leaders from all denominations
Faith Leaders - channels to hope to the community for child protection!

They can be catalysts in engaging other parts of CP system, to change a crisis into a positive impact for children.
Mexico

By: Selvia Vargas Kotasek, Thematic Content Officer,
Save the Children
HOW TO MAKE HOME A SAFE SPACE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS?

AN APPROACH FOR FAMILIES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY
How to make home a safe space for children and adolescents?

Mexico’s violence context during COVID-19:

- More than 20,000 cases of family violence throughout the country during March
- The first quarter of 2020, was the most violent for women in Mexico
- Since March 24 to the end of the month, 706 homicides were recorded

Domestic violence

VIOLENCE CONTEXT IN MEXICO

Violence by organized crime

Gender-based violence
How to make home a safe space for children and adolescents?

The approach

Child participation approach
Gender sensitive approach
Tender care practices

HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE OF A SAFE HOME

Protection, participation, equality, containment and emotional care and education
### How to make home a safe space for children and adolescents?

#### Explaining the approach

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Identify your family’s needs</td>
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<td>Set a routine</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Strengthen your relationship with your children</td>
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<td>Encourage children and adolescents to get involved</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Foster learning</td>
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<td>Support your children’s and adolescents’ emotions</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Live together as equals</td>
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<td>Reduce the risk of accidents in the house</td>
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How to make home a safe space for children and adolescents?

Community engagement

Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Community Centers

Community spaces for protection and care, where girls and boys have access to initial and preschool education

“I have done my best to make it work, I have taken my children's opinions into account, I listen to them and then try to complement their ideas with my own, I let them make decisions and we share the housework. We do different activities and have created a daily routine, we are strengthening the parent-child relationship, we promote the participation of our children in our home”

Mother of a 4-year-old girl, and a 5-year-old boy. They attend the Community Center "El tren de la infancia" in Mexico City
How to make home a safe space for children and adolescents?

Community engagement

Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Community Centers

“I have shared the information with the mothers’ group and most of them have implemented it since the girls and boys are anxious, but the mothers comment that with the activities that are suggested and the monitoring of the teachers, together with my support in emotional health issues for the parents, abuse has been avoided, they have been able to organize themselves at home, play with their children and carry out activities suggested by Save the Children”

Teresa, coordinator of the Community Center “Temoatzin” in Mexico City
QUESTIONS?
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We are happy to continue facilitating conversations and further adapting and developing guidance, but we’d like to hear from you!

Please share in the chatbox:

1. What are your priorities for future sessions or annexes to the guidance? 
2. What forum do you prefer?

Finally, in light of COVID-19 please share with us:

- Feedback on the CCP Guidance and missing information/ details
- Lessons learnt and good practices in relation to working with communities on CP
- Newly developed and/or contextualized guidance and tools for community-level CP
THANK YOU!