



World Food Programme

SAVING
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How to Mainstream Child Protection into Programme and Operations

Step by Step Guidance

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Introduction

Given the high proportion of children targeted and supported through WFP programmes and operations and the fact that girls and boys with and without disabilities face unique protection risks, responding to their specific needs is a key priority for WFP. A recent internal mixed-methods review – conducted through a proxy population method – estimated that, across 63 countries and all WFP's activity portfolios, adolescents represent an average of 27% of all WFP's beneficiaries, ranging from 3% to 60% depending on the country¹⁷. This proportion represents approximately 15 million adolescents reached in 2018. In most cases, WFP reached them via school feeding and general food assistance, suggesting that the organization has enormous potential for leveraging its platforms to more appropriately and comprehensively address the needs of children (WFP, 2020).¹

WFP does not have a specific Child Protection Policy. However, considerations for child protection are included in the WFP Protection and Accountability Policy (2020) and in the ED Circular on Child Safeguarding (forthcoming 2021).

Furthermore, WFP recognizes that children's rights are enshrined in international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In particular the provision that states all children have the right to be protected, nurtured and free from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation.

This guidance aims to provide WFP and partners with practical information on how to implement actions and decisions that respect the best interests of the child. It is advised that the guidance is considered at the design stage of an activity but certain components such as the safe and meaningful consultation of children and the identification of child safeguarding violations should be considered throughout the project implementation. Section 5 includes useful tools and templates that can be easily adapted to a given context.

WFP documents that integrate child protection principles include:

- WFP Protection and Accountability Policy (2020)
- Protection and Accountability Handbook (2021)
- Guidance Note to Prevent the Use of Child Labour in WFP Operations and Programmes (2017)
- WFP Accountability to Affected Populations Guidance Manual (2017)
- WFP Gender-Based Violence Manual (2017)
- WFP Guide to Personal Data Protection and Privacy (2016)
- ED Circular on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (2014)
- WFP Beneficiary Identity Management Guide (2019) (section on children's biometrics)
- Practical note: For WFP and Partners on Preventing and Responding to Child Labour (forthcoming 2021)

¹ See [“Programming for Adolescents: Why Should WFP do More?”](#).

Key Definitions

Child: The Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 1 (CRC) 1989, defines a child as “any human being below the age of eighteen years (18), unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”.

Separated Child/Separated Minor: children separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.

Unaccompanied Child/Unaccompanied minor: a child without the presence of a legal guardian or any form of family. Are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

Child headed household: is a family in which no adults are left to care for them and a minor (less than 18 years) has become the head of the household. For example, an older child takes responsibility for siblings, a girl child who has a baby, a group of children self-organize themselves as a family unit or a child who has taken on the role of head of household as the adult member/s is unable to fulfill this position for various reasons (age, illness etc).

Orphans: are children, both of whose parents are known to be dead. In some countries, however, a child who has lost one parent is called an orphan.

Guardianship/Formal Caretaker: The precise definition, function and manner of appointment of a guardian varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. However, the term guardianship refers to the designation of responsibility to an adult or organization for ensuring that a child’s best interests are fully represented.

Young People/Youth/Adolescent: The definitions of adolescent and youth vary across countries, cultures and organizations. The Child Protection in Minimum Standards (CPMS) defines children aged 9–17 years as adolescents whilst the United Nations refers to 10-19 years of age. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines ‘adolescents’ as individuals in the 10-19 years age group and divide it into early (10–13 years), middle (14–16 years) and late (17–19 years) adolescence. The great majority of adolescents are, therefore, included in the age-based definition of “child” - adopted by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Other terms in use are: ‘youth’, defined by the United Nations as the 15-24 year age group - endorsed by the General Assembly through resolution 36/28, 1981; ‘Young people’, defined as the 10-24-year age group, and used to combine adolescents and youth.

Best Interests of the Child: The best interests of the child constitute the basic standard for guiding decisions and actions taken to help children by WFP. Elements to consider when analysing what is in the child’s best interest:

- The safety of the child
- Respect for the opinions of the child
- The age and maturity of the child
- Preservation of the unity of the family
- Preservation of the child’s health
- The child’s unhindered access to education.

Child Safeguarding: Child safeguarding refers to all the actions WFP takes to keep all children it comes into contact with safe – and includes the proactive measures put in place to ensure children do not come to harm as a result of any direct or indirect contact with WFP and partners. Child safeguarding encompasses the prevention of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and maltreatment of children by WFP employees and other persons whom WFP is responsible for, including contractors, vendors, partners etc.

Child Protection: Child protection is only one part of child safeguarding. It is an umbrella term that covers all the child-centered actions and measures WFP needs to have in place in order to prevent and reduce the likelihood of concerns arising (e.g. codes of conduct, safe recruitment procedures, training and communication). While assuring the physical safety of children is crucial, mainstreaming the minimum standards of child protection in emergencies encompasses more than stopping attacks or moving children out of harm’s way. It includes measures that promote the child’s physical and wellbeing, provide them equal access to basic services and safeguards their human rights.

Working Child: A child can be involved in work under certain conditions as long as the child is above the minimum working age, as set by the International Labour Organisation and [WFP Guidance Note to Prevent the Use of Child Labour in WFP Programmes and Operations](#). WFP recognizes that children’s participation in work which does not interfere with their schooling and childhood.

Child Labour: refers to children working in contravention of the standards contained in ILO Conventions No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Additional information can be found here: [WFP Guidance Note to Prevent the Use of Child Labour in WFP Programmes and Operations](#)

Worst Forms of Child Labour: The worst forms of child labour involve children being enslaved, forcibly recruited, sexually exploited, trafficked, forced into illegal activities or engaged in hazardous work. These forms of labour are prohibited for children of all ages without exception.

Child Marriage: Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child. Child marriage is often the result of entrenched gender inequality, making girls disproportionately affected by the practice. Globally, the prevalence of [child marriage among boys](#) is just one sixth that among girls.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: The term “sexual exploitation” means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. Similarly, the term “sexual abuse” means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

Child Abuse: includes physical, emotional/psychological and sexual abuse, neglect and negligent treatment, exploitation and violence in all form.

1. Child Safeguarding

WFP has a duty of care to ensure that children who come into contact with WFP and partners as a result of, or are impacted by, WFP activities are safeguarded to the maximum possible extent from deliberate or inadvertent actions that place them at risk of neglect, physical or sexual abuse and exploitation, injury and any other harm. This is only possible through careful risk management and designing programmes in a way that creates or contributes to a safer environment for all children. WFP has an obligation to ensure that any interaction with children is done safely and considers their best interest.

Therefore, it is mandatory for all WFP employees:

- To take all possible measures to protect children from harm and ensure that children regardless of their age, gender, disability status, language, livelihood, and other context specific relevant factors never experience abuse of any kind perpetuated by WFP and partners;

- To consider a child’s best interest at all times and to keep them safe;
- To combat discrimination based on age, disability, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation and other context specific relevant factors.

Prior to the implementation of any activity or programme WFP must conduct a **protection risk assessment to inform its context analysis, the design and implementation of activities**. The child safeguarding questions can be integrated into the broader needs assessment or consolidated based on information collected through protection and other assessments.

A protection risk assessment will help WFP identify the ways in which employees and partners acting on behalf of WFP understand the risks to children from the organisation, (its employees, programmes and operations) and identifies opportunities to address those risks with appropriate measures.



IN PRACTICE SAFEGUARDING MEANS ENSURING THAT WFP:

- Designs programmes to minimise the risk of harm to the children they come into contact with or impact upon directly or indirectly by taking sufficient account of child safety;
- Protects children from abuse and maltreatment within the context of its programmes and operations;
- Ensuring children have safe and equal access to assistance;
- Facilitates children’s engagement in processes that impact them;
- Has clear guidelines on what constitutes child safeguarding risks and establishes reporting mechanisms to report violations of child safeguarding commitments;
- Employees and partners are trained and familiar with the Child Safeguarding Circular (forthcoming 2021) and their obligations.

DIRECT	INDIRECT
Sexually or otherwise exploit children in return for access to assistance.	Communicating with children or young people through online platforms (an employee grooms children through direct messages on a WFP platform, text messages etc. related to the implementation of an activity with CBT).
Engaging children in livelihood and income generating activities that are not tailored to ILO guidelines (child labour).	Inappropriate use of information, stories and visual images (photographs, video or social media) of children. ²
Registration (incl. biometric) of children without the consent of the primary caregiver and the assent of the child.	Having access to child identifiable personal data and sharing it with a third-party without the consent from the care-giver and assent from the child. This could include registration for a school-based programme and sharing the data with government without informing the subject at the time of registration. <i>For example, in a context where there is recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups this would directly place children at risk.</i>
Any failure to consider the child's best interest in the design, implementation and monitoring of activities. <i>For example, a mother takes her child to a cash for work site. The site is not secure, and the child gets run over crossing a street.</i>	
Registration of separated or unaccompanied minors without prior consultation with dedicated child protection actors and the WFP Guide to Personal Data Protection and Privacy.	
Taking photographs of children without the consent of the primary caregiver and the assent of the child.	Receiving a case of child abuse, investigating and attempting to handle the case rather than safely referring the case to dedicated child protection actors or WFP protection officers to address.
Taking photographs of children without the consent of the primary caregiver and the assent of the child.	Receiving a case of child abuse, investigating and attempting to handle the case rather than safely referring the case to dedicated child protection actors or WFP protection officers to address.
Interviewing children in the absence and without the consent of the designated care-giver, assent of the child and dedicated child protection actors or dedicated employees trained on consulting children.	Your organisation produced a publication for the website and media, which featured a photo and story about a girl and her family who fled a conflict. The girl and family had given permission for the story to be published. The publication shares the name, location and age of the girl and her family. The week following publication project staff tell you that the girl and her family were attacked by community leaders.
Recruiting employees that have a record of committing child abuse. This includes retaining employees that have engaged in child marriage.	
Abuse (physical, emotional or sexual) occurring on the way to, from or during the child's participation in WFP led programmes activities (this includes abuse by teachers in a school-based programming activity, use of physical force or lack of response to reports of GBV).	A man sends his son to the farm to harvest as he participates in a livelihood project because with the conditionality, he is unable to fulfil both tasks. Or A child is kept home from school because the adult member of the single headed household (woman) was targeted and selected for an asset creation activity but is unable to leave her younger children in a safe space on the worksite whilst she participates.
Discrimination based on gender, religion, disability other context specific factors that denies the child access to safe and meaningful assistance.	
Vendors, partners and suppliers engaging in child labour.	A child does not have the level of literacy required to understand programme communication explaining how to use the CFM. The child cannot access the CFM to report their abuse.
The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances.	

2 UNICEF Tips for good practice include:

- Images of children must not show them in stages of undress or in inappropriate poses.
- Details attached to images and included in stories must not allow that child to be traced to his or her home or community.
- Distinctive buildings, street signs or landmarks should not be included in an image if they identify where a child lives or works.
- Geotagging of images should be disabled when taking photographs.
- Ensure the photographer/journalist/translator you have employed has been properly vetted and reference checked.
- Make sure you have been given permission by children and their parents/carers to take their image and use their information.

IDENTIFYING CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK

Below is a brief overview of the components that should be considered in a protection risk assessment to ensure it considers child safeguarding. The protection risk assessment should be led by programme with support from the CO level protection and AAP colleagues or in the absence of CO level protection colleagues Humanitarian Advisors should be consulted. The protection risk assessment is a fundamental component of the context analysis. If the CO is implementing activities that directly target children such as nutrition and school-based programming these areas of activities should be strongly engaged in the process.



Following the assessment ensure regular monitoring of the mitigation measures introduced through post-distribution processes.

RESOURCES

- WFP Child Safeguarding Circular (forthcoming 2021)
- A rapid powerpoint presentation for WFP partners and employees can be found [here](#).

2. Child Protection

Child protection is a key component of child safeguarding. Child protection are activities that reduce exposure of children to abuse, neglect and exploitation and that support them to achieve their basic rights to care, protection and justice.³

“Child protection risks are potential violations and threats to children’s rights that will cause harm to children.”

To understand a child’s risk, we need to understand the nature of the risk and the individual child’s vulnerability to that risk, as well as their capacity. Food insecurity and humanitarian emergencies expose children to different risks and negative coping mechanisms and can be a driver of child protection risks. Furthermore, due to these economic stressors, many households turn to harmful coping mechanisms, such as child labor, family separation, and child marriage (see Plan International publication here). Gender roles and dynamics, disability and conflict should be taken into consideration and analysed when considering the protection risks faced by children and their best interest.

Furthermore, certain groups of children may be particularly vulnerable to harm and will require additional attention and coordination with other actors to reach (child protection and government specific actors). For example, children separated from their parents and families because of conflict, population displacement or natural disasters are among the most vulnerable.⁴

The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG/CAAC) was established following the groundbreaking report on the Impact of armed conflict on children (A/51/306 and Add.1) presented to the General Assembly in 1996. During armed conflict, international humanitarian law and international human rights law must be respected, with special regard to children who often have no means to defend themselves against abuses. The full range of children’s rights, economic, social, and cultural as well as political and civil, must be respected, protected, and fulfilled. The six grave violations against children during times of armed conflict, enumerated by the Security Council in its resolutions, form the basis of the Council’s architecture in protecting children during war. The United Nations Monitoring and Reporting mechanism set up around the world feeds into this framework to gather evidence of grave violations against children in reporting to the Security Council.

The Six Grave Violations of Children Rights in conflict are:

1. Killing and maiming
2. Recruitment and use of children
3. Abduction
4. Rape and sexual violence
5. Attacks against schools and hospitals
6. Denial of humanitarian access

Examples of groups considered at-risk

(This list is not exhaustive, and these categories often overlap, meaning that some individuals find themselves facing multiple vulnerabilities at once)

- Unaccompanied minors
- Separated minors
- Girls (age 10–14)
- Child brides
- Adolescent mothers
- Child heads of households
- Widowed adolescents
- Survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) including trafficking
- Girls who bear children of rape in conflict
- Children born of rape in conflict
- Children engaged in transactional sex
- Children living with HIV and other chronic illnesses

- Children with disabilities
- Children caring for persons with disabilities
- Children formerly associated with fighting forces
- Children impacted by gang violence
- Children in contact with the law, including those in detention
- Children experiencing homelessness or in temporary housing
- Children engaged in (the worst forms of) child labour or forced labour
- Children from minority linguistic, religious and other groups, including indigenous groups
- LGBTQIA+ young people
- Undocumented children
- Refugee and internally displaced children
- Stateless children
- Returnee children

³ The rights and interests of boys, girls with and without disabilities, including those in vulnerable situations must be considered in needs assessments, activity design, community feedback mechanisms and throughout the implementation stage.

⁴ Inter-Agency Guidance on Separated and Unaccompanied Children https://www.unicef.org/protection/IAG_UASCs.pdf

WFP can understand and capture children’s preferences, needs and potential protection risks in multiple ways either through a secondary desk analysis or through the direct consultation of children. **Direct consultation of children should only be done in collaboration with child protection mandated agencies and following the ethical procedures outlined on page 10.** The findings of the desk review should be considered in the context analysis and the design and implementation of programmes. If there is insufficient information available additional qualitative research can be considered.

Before planning to directly consult children please seek advice and support from your CO level protection and AAP colleagues, Regional Humanitarian Advisors and/or national level child protection mandated agencies.

Examples of groups considered at-risk (This list is not exhaustive, and these categories often overlap, meaning that some individuals find themselves facing multiple vulnerabilities at once).

EXAMPLES OF CHILD PROTECTION RISKS⁵ (NON-EXHAUSTIVE)

RISK	WFP’S ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY
Intra household tensions, including intimate partner violence or other gender-based violence and inter household tensions – both of which can spill over to their children in the form of emotional or physical abuse or neglect.	Refer to child protection actor
A household takes on an unaccompanied minor to increase their household size in order to qualify for food assistance targeting criteria.	<i>Example of a negative coping mechanism.</i>
A toddler is deprived of food by their mother to ensure that the family qualifies for a programme targeting households with malnourished children.	
A family sends one of their daughters to live with a distant relative who neglects them to take advantage of a programme targeting households with children in that area.	
A displaced household resorts to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, child marriage, sexual exploitation, removal from school or forced separation to meet essential needs.	Review food security assessment and targeting profile to capture at risk households.
A child is sent to the distribution site instead of the adult caregiver because the waiting hours are long (more than half a day) and sometimes you need to come multiple times to be served and the adult caregiver needs to supplement his/her income selling firewood.	<i>Example of violation of child safeguarding principles.</i>
Distribution procedures and mechanisms do not consider disability inclusion or level of literacy and the eldest child of the house is sent to collect the assistance because he can read and travel the distance to the site.	
Girls participating in a school-based programme are sexually abused in school.	<i>Example of violation of child safeguarding principles.</i> WFP with respect counter-part (ministry of education and/or child protection actors) should: 1. Conduct a safety audit of the school to risks and define appropriate mitigation measures. 2. Conduct awareness-raising session on PSEA for all WFP employees, partners and school employees. 3. Community awareness raising on PSEA including messages targeted to children, how and where to access reporting channels.

⁵ Section 3 (page 17) shares examples of potential mitigation measures by activity.

RISK	WFP'S ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY
<p>An adolescent mother (13 years) is unable to be registered as the primary recipient of nutrition assistance because she is below 14 years of age. Despite being a caregiver a neighbor (male adult) is registered as the primary care giver leading to a denial of resources and abuse.</p>	<p><i>Example of violation of child safeguarding principles.</i></p> <p>Assistance is not tailored to age or respective needs of the targeted affected population.</p>
<p>Distribution delays and commodity shortfall leads to a household sending the children to beg to reimburse the credit they acquired to meet essential needs.</p>	<p><i>Example of violation of child safeguarding principles.</i></p> <p>Review and improve communication to communities about distribution delays so they can better plan.</p>
<p>Feeding practices that favour a child because of their gender.</p>	<p><i>Denial of access to food assistance or nutrition programmes based on discrimination (gender).</i></p> <p>Integrate key messages addressed to men and women in social behavioral change communication.</p>



3. Meaningful Engagement of Children

WFP recognizes that consulting and engaging children in the design, implementation and monitoring of activities is necessary to ensure age, gender and disability specific needs are considered and access to assistance is safe.

All direct consultation and engagement of children should be done in close consultation and coordination with child protection actors and/or the respective government counterpart.

Working with child protection actors/respective government stakeholders will help WFP and partners determine whether directly consulting children is in the child/children's best interest and the most appropriate approach to adopt to include children in the participatory process. Child protection actors include UN agencies such as UNICEF, IOM or INGOs like Save the Children, Plan International, local NGOs that work on education, with separated and unaccompanied minors or children's rights or the respective government stakeholder such as the Ministry of Family Affair and Child Welfare. Child protection actors can support with conducting the orientation for WFP employees and provide WFP employees with direct support to engage children. They can also provide WFP with feedback on how WFP can ensure its messaging and communication is child friendly and context specific consent and assent forms to use.

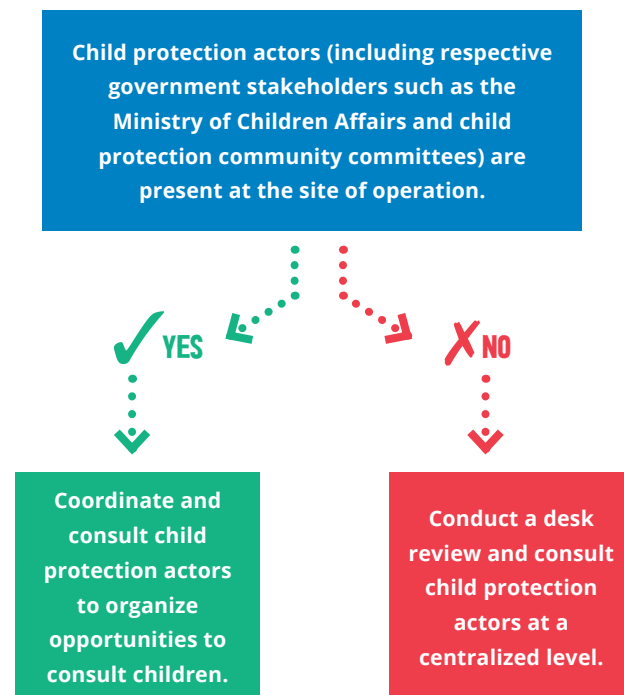
When analysing the child's best interest, WFP should verify in consultation with child protection actors whether consulting the child/children might have any adverse effect or rather contribute to protect one or more of the following elements:

- Care, protection and safety of the child,
- Preservation of the unity of the family,
- Child's right to health,
- Child's right to education,
- Respect for the opinions of the child,
- The identity of the child (e.g. age, language, religion and beliefs, maturity, etc.),

Situation of vulnerability (disability, belonging to a minority group, being a refugee or asylum seeker, victim of abuse, living in a street situation, etc.).

A. PRINCIPLES OF CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

In order to be effective, consultations and meetings should be thoroughly planned. Ideally the consultation process will be designed in partnership with child protection actors and children. Children expectations of the consultation / meeting can be established through contact with children's organisations or by asking NGOs or other civil society organisations working on child protection to facilitate this. *A country office may also identify a member of the protection and AAP team as a child protection focal point to lead consultations with children.*



The Minimum Standards outlined below are based on five principles of participation as highlighted by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Children's Participation.

GUIDELINE (Before, During and After Consultations with Children)	KEY CRITERIA
Planning of the consultation allows appropriate time for organizing children's participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory activities to involve children in the consultation start at least 2 weeks before the event. This includes informing child protection actors of the activity. • A realistic budget is made that includes all possible costs for children's participation. • All facilitators for FGDs receive training from child protection actors on participatory techniques before they begin their duties to ensure that they are able to facilitate an environment that is non-discriminatory and inclusive. • Facilitation plans are discussed by all to ensure roles and responsibilities are clear.
Children-friendly background information is produced, translated and shared with children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before activities start, children-friendly information on the event is produced that outlines the aims of the event and the roles and responsibilities of those attending (including under-18 delegates and how they will be involved in the consultation process). • Employees conducting the consultation have information on child protection referral pathways and assent and consent forms.
Child participation is accessible, inclusive, and non-discriminatory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children are given an equal chance to participate regardless of status, age, ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, disability, health, social, economic, legal, or any other status, vulnerability or relationship to WFP. • Selection Criteria for respondents must give an equal chance for all children to participate in the event/exercise. • Make sure views from children of different groups are included, Girls, Boys, CWDs, ethnic minorities etc. Based on feedback from children and child protection actors FGD for girls and boys with and without disabilities are undertaken separately.
Child participation is accessible. The venue for the consultation is children-friendly and accessible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FGD is conducted in coordination with child protection actors, in local languages and with the support of sign language experts/disability people's organization to ensure opportunities for the most marginalised children (CWDs, Minorities). • Ensure that the meeting space is safe, familiar, and physically accessible to all children who are participating; appropriate language translation is provided for meetings conducted in other languages. Schools (ideally more friendly rooms) are suitable environments for Focus Group sessions with children. <p><i>Parents can be consulted on "trusted spaces" that enable them to agree to have their children participate.</i></p>
Voluntary child participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should freely choose to join or not to join the participation process and to withdraw themselves from the process any time. • Child participation should not disturb children's other commitments such as study time, activities at home, play time and so on. • Children should not be offered any kind of compensation for their participation in the FGDs.
Informed Assent and Consent from children and or their care givers/guardian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation cannot commence before informed consent/assent is obtained from the child and parent or guardian of the child. • Children should receive full and easy understanding information on the background, purpose, venue and possible outcomes of the events of their participation before they decide to participate or not. This information includes possible risks that might happen in the process. • Children should receive easily understandable information with regards to how their data will be processed, for which purpose this information is gathered and in which cases and with which external parties this information might be shared.

<p>Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All employees, adult/youth volunteers, partners or persons who work directly with children are informed/trained on the WFP safeguarding circular and have signed a code of conduct. • Direct consultation of children should only take place in coordination and consultation with child protection actors/respective government stakeholder. • All facilitators and employees engaging with children should be clearly identifiable with organization logo and a name tag. • When conducting a consultation for a participatory assessment refrain from collecting personal identifiable data on children when consulting them. • Follow the ‘two-adult’ rule, wherein ensure two or more adults are present while supervising or conducting all activities that involve children and are always visible and present. • If you come across a case of child protection (SEA, GBV, etc) in the absence of child protection actors refer the case immediately to child protection actors. In the absence of child protection actors in the immediate vicinity consult protection actors.
<p>Respect Children’s Views</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an atmosphere for Children to freely express their personal view on the discussion subject matter. Their ideas must be respected accordingly. • When including children in CBPP, school-based programming or nutrition related activities separate the child participants from the adults. Adolescent girls may feel more comfortable speaking amongst a group of adolescent girls than a mixed group with women.⁶ • Teachers or parents should neither be part of the discussion nor be present in the room in order to encourage children to freely speak their mind
<p>Child participation activities and methods are child-friendly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods encompass a range of participatory activities and action learning including but not limited to; visual and physical demonstrations, recreational, playing, drama, games, discussion, music, art and more. • Essential documents are translated into age-appropriate language and images/symbols that children can understand. • Language and flow of information of the discussion should be understandable and simple for the children. (Avoid using jargon and technical language.) • Facial expressions matter a lot for children to effectively participate (No rude face), sitting postures, gestures etc. • Language tone (Aggressive language, abusive language not accepted). • Child Participation should ensure good timing and allow for rest, and fun.
<p>Accountability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the participants with information on how to reach WFP and partners (including the community feedback mechanism). • Explain to the participants how you will share the results of the consultation with them.

⁶ There are inevitable imbalances in power and status between adults and children. Transparency, honesty and accountability are needed for children’s participation to be genuine and meaningful.



CONSULTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Remember that girls and boys with and without disabilities may have different experiences, needs, and opportunities, due to gender roles and dynamics, that may further compound their vulnerability therefore it is important to include their experiences in any analysis of needs.

X DONT'S'

- x Behave in an inappropriate physical manner towards children beneficiaries including but not limited to caress, fondle, hold, kiss, hug or touch children or adult beneficiaries in any culturally, religiously inappropriate and or insensitive ways;
- x Use language or behavior towards beneficiaries that are children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, offensive, sexual in nature, including using any words that cause shame, humiliation or are belittling or degrading in nature;
- x Seek to make contact or spend excessive or unnecessary time alone or talking to a child beneficiary in a location where they may be alone, away from others or behind closed doors or in a secluded area outside of the designated program or activity time;
- x Do not visit a child's home alone or invite unaccompanied children into private residences, unless they are at immediate risk of injury or in physical danger.

B. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The ethical considerations apply to all situations whether WFP is consulting children in a need assessment/or any research/data collection, social behavioral change communication, awareness-raising exercise or children are participating in a registration exercise.

All WFP employees, partners, volunteers, suppliers who will potentially be in contact with children must first receive an orientation of the behavior protocols and acknowledge in writing by signing the protocols for safeguarding children. If the information is being used for study purposes it may need to be granted ethical clearance.

REQUESTING CONSENT AND ASSENT

Following correct procedures for informed consent is fundamental to consulting and including collecting data children. *Consent should be acquired from parents or caregivers, making sure they understand the rationale, the type of activities to be conducted and the way the research would be used, potential risks, and expectations of a WFP or partner supported child participation activity.* Participation should always be voluntary and with the informed consent/assent of both the children and their parents/ caregivers.

Consent and assent forms must be translated into local languages and are in accessible format for children with certain impairments.

INFORMED ASSENT

When children are below 15 years of age, they are too young to consent.⁷ Therefore, their informed assent (oral) should be sought (i.e. willingness to participate in services or activity) while a parent or caregiver gives consent. If there is no adult parent/caregiver, or they are implicated in the abuse, WFP with the assent of the child should refer the case to child protection actors. If there are no child protection actors present a trusted adult (identified by the child in conjunction with child protection actors) should be approached to give consent.

- All cases of conflicting opinions from the adult and minor when obtaining consent plus assent – e.g. child is unwilling to participate in the programme, but adult wants them to, and vice versa should be referred to child protection actors. The **best interests of the child** is prioritized in any interaction with children.
- All cases involving children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), should be referred to child protection actors for case management services before proceeding any further.

ASSENT

The willingness to participate in research or an activity/intervention expressed by persons who are, by legal definition according to local law, too young to give informed consent, but who are old enough to understand the proposed research/activity/intervention in general, the potential risks and benefits, and the activities expected of them as subjects.

INFORMED CONSENT

Children that are 15-17 years old⁸ are considered mature enough to give informed consent; ideally parents/caregivers should also give consent.

- If there is no adult parent/caregiver, or they are implicated in the abuse, a trusted adult (identified by the child) who can be safely brought into care and treatment decisions should be approached to give consent, or, if there is no such person, the employee can give written consent, noting the reason why on the form.
- Working with children who above 15 years but are not capable of giving consent (e.g., due to having a disability) requires the consent of the parent or legal guardian, as well as the assent of the subject.

INFORMED CONSENT

The process of obtaining permission from a person prior to that person's participation in a research study/activity/intervention. Informed consent involves:

- Disclosure: provision of information to the subject about the research/activity/intervention, including potential risks and benefits
- Understanding: comprehension by the subject of the disclosed information and the request for consent, which may require additional facilitation if the individual has limited or no prior education, literacy, or capacity to understand due to age or physical or mental illness
- Voluntariness: understanding by all parties of the fact that the subject's involvement in the research/activity/intervention is voluntary and should be free from coercion
- Capacity: the person providing informed consent must possess the decision-making ability and legal right/authority to give permission for the subject's participation (whether that is themselves, or someone for whom they are the parent/legal guardian) in the research/activity/intervention.

⁷ [Caring for Child Survivors Pages 113-117](#): Explores obtaining informed assent / consent, with a focus what level of assent & consent is needed for various ages: • Bottom of pg 116 & top of 117 discuss challenges with assent (when a child is under age 15 and no parent/primary caregiver will give consent) • The [CP Case Mgmt. Guidelines](#) & Caring for Child Survivors guides also provide a good graphic for assent vs. consent, indicating that children 15 and above could potentially provide informed consent by this age (but, of course, taking any maturity issues or impaired cognitive functioning / disability into account). • The Alliance Case Management Task Force (CMTF) developed a [CP CM SOP template](#), which includes information about consent/assent section on pages 14-15 (of the English version)

⁸ Interagency Child Protection Information Management System (IA CP IMS). Available here: <https://www.cpims.org/>

HOW DO I REQUEST CONSENT IF THE RESPONDENT IS A CHILD?

Scenario 1: If the respondent is a child (below 15 years), this entails assent by the child and informed consent by their caretaker. Once identified the individual participants, WFP personnel will contact respective guardians and explain the research activities, project or registration in its purpose and methodology. Once obtained guardians verbal consent, WFP personnel will provide the informed consent form, outlining all the procedures to be taken to ensure child protection and privacy, and request the guardians' signature.

WFP should ensure that field staff engaged in data collection are soliciting informed consent from caregivers of anyone under the age of 18, as well as assent from the children themselves if they are below 15 years of age. Above 15 years of age the child and caregiver can provide consent.

Scenario 2: If the respondent is an unaccompanied minor without a caregiver or a head of a household and 15 years explain the data collection process to the child and how the information will be used and stored. Explain to the child how he or she can amend this data following the consultation and walk them through the informed consent form.

Please refer to Annex 1 on page 30 for a sample assent and consent form for minors.

Additional resources:

1. Caring for Child Survivors Pages 113-117: Explores obtaining informed assent / consent, with a focus what level of assent & consent is needed for various ages.
2. WFP, 2020. Child Friendly CFM Guidance
3. Save the Children. 2003. So you want to consult children? A Toolkit on Good Practices: page 23 on organizing a consultation meeting and page 39 for guidance on planning a preparatory meeting.
4. Children and Young People's Participation: An Essential Approach for Ending Violence Against Children, World Vision, 2017.
5. Bennouna, Cyril, Hani Mansourian and Lindsay Stark, 'Ethical considerations for children's participation in data collection activities during humanitarian emergencies: A Delphi review', Conflict and Health, 2017 (11:5).
6. Guidelines for Children's Participation in Humanitarian Programming, Save the Children, 2013.
7. Children's MIRA: Listening to Children During Emergencies (A Tool for Conducting Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessments with Children), Save the Children, 2016.
8. Sample questionnaires from WFP Central African Republic Emergency Food Security Assessment collaboration with Plan International, WFP School-based programming activities in Iraq and Egypt, WFP partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA in Niger and Chad (also available in French)

C. COMMUNICATION FOR CHILDREN

Communication for children needs to consider different abilities and needs at different ages, and thus must be child-centred and age-appropriate. Any development of information targeting children should be done in close collaboration and coordination with child protection actors.

CHILD FRIENDLY AND COMMUNICATION

Children need and have a right to clear and interesting child-centred (not adult-centred) communication. As previously mentioned, children at different stages have very different needs and interests and learn in different ways from different media/materials. **Use child-appropriate language, characters, stories, music and humour.**

- For children from birth through 6 years, using rhymes,

riddles, tongue twisters and simple jokes to make content as appealing as possible;

- For children 7 through 10 years, using stories about friendships, new skills or talents, daily occurrences that are opportunities for growth as well as testing one's values and critical thinking skills;
- For adolescents 11 through 14 years, using positive role models with high moral standards, stories about balancing the influence of family/friends/media, non-pedagogical formats and guidance in helping channel the need for experimentation and independence into healthy life choices.

USE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO COMMUNICATION

For example, for nutrition -Integrate gender-progressive attitudes and practices – model older men and women encouraging and praising adolescent girls and boys when they go to school and combat stereotypes based on gender, age, disability.

COMMUNICATION FOR CHILDREN SHOULD BE POSITIVE AND STRENGTH BASED

Strengths-based communication focuses on portraying and nurturing the strengths and potential in every child rather than focusing on the deficits or problems. Regardless of country or situation, it means developing communication that invites children to imagine or be transported to seeing things they have not previously experienced; that excites children about possibilities of what they can do today or become in the future; and channels their energy into positive thought and action.

COMMUNICATION FOR CHILDREN SHOULD ADDRESS THE NEEDS AND ABILITIES OF ALL INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE MOST DISADVANTAGED

Good communication includes positive portrayals of children from different cultures and language groups, livelihood and all socio-economic backgrounds, those with disabilities, and children who have or are experiencing trauma, grief or living through emergencies.

4. Mainstreaming Child Protection into WFP Key Activities

Child protection is keeping children safe from harm.⁹ WFP can contribute to child protection by being aware of how its activities, including the delivery of basic services, impact on the lives of individuals, households and communities, and how their programmes can be used to help reduce vulnerability to exploitation and abuse of children.

In many cultures, adulthood and childhood are defined not by age, but by achieving a certain status in society – often linked to milestones like marriage, having children, or becoming a property owner. *WFP aligns with the CRC and regards any individual under the age of 18 as a child* however age, gender and disability all intersect when determining how WFP should engage children directly or indirectly as active participants in livelihood and asset creation activities, nutrition, school-based programmes or unconditional food assistance. The transfer modality and the delivery mechanism employed may also have implications.

It is particularly important to differentiate between the different stages of adolescence for programming purposes related to health, nutrition and education (including alignment with pre-school, primary and secondary school ages). The internationally recognized distinction between children (0–17 years) and adults (18+) is crucial to take into consideration, given the differences in treatment under the law between children and adults.¹⁰

The section below outlines how these minimum standards apply to WFP's work.

The 2019 Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, or Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS), were developed by members of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. They were originally developed in 2012 and were updated in 2019. The CPMS are Sphere companion standards. They were not developed specifically for refugee situations, but most are applicable to all settings. Protection colleagues can use the CPMS for technical guidance on child protection, and for training and strategy development.

⁹ The primary responsibility for ensuring children's survival and well-being lies with parents, family and community. The national and local authorities/community structures are responsible for ensuring that children's rights are respected. However, the breakdown of social structures and services accompanying major crises means that communities and States themselves may not be in a position to provide the necessary protection and care for children without families.

¹⁰ Beyond the CRC and two optional protocols (2000) various instruments and legal normative frameworks have been developed to address the specific protection risk encountered by children of particular relevance to WFP's work is the Inter-Agency Guidance on Separated and Unaccompanied children and the UNSCR 2427, UNSCR 2225, UNSCR 2143 on children in armed conflict and UNSCR 1325 which makes specific reference to protecting girls from sexual violence in armed conflict.

The best interest principle guides the design, implementation, monitoring and adjustment of all humanitarian programmes and interventions and should be routinely reassessed. There are three aspects to the best interest concept. They are:

- A child's basic right: children have a right to have their best interests assessed and taken as a primary consideration;
- A legal principle: if a legal provision is open to more than one interpretation, the interpretation which most effectively serves the child's best interests should be chosen;
- A rule of procedure: whenever a decision will affect a child, a group of children or children in general, the decision-making process must (a) evaluate the possible impact of the decision on the child(ren) concerned and (b) show that the right of children to have their best interests assessed and taken as a primary consideration has been explicitly taken into account.

When analysing the child's best interest, WFP should verify whether the activity might have any adverse effect or rather contribute to protect one or more of the following elements:

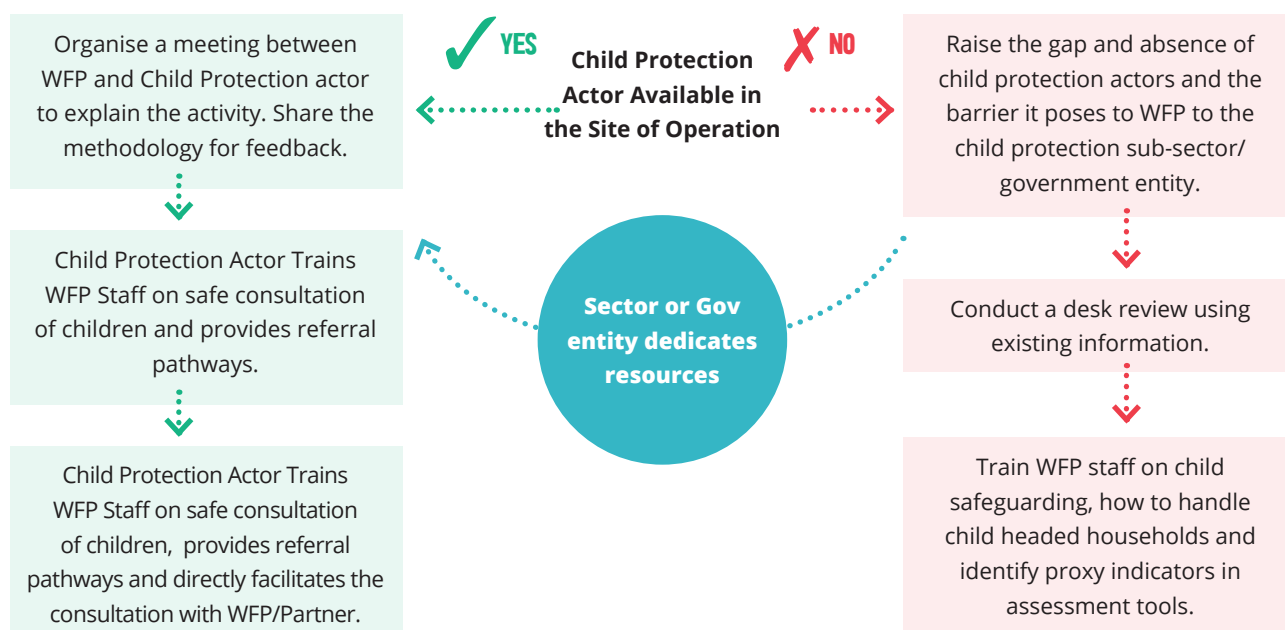
- Care, protection and safety of the child
- Preservation of the unity of the family
- Child's right to health
- Child's right to education
- Respect for the opinions of the child
- The identity of the child (e.g. age, language, religion and beliefs, maturity, etc.)
- Situation of vulnerability (disability, belonging to a minority group, being a refugee or asylum seeker, victim of abuse, living in a street situation, etc.)

The section below outlines how these minimum standards apply to WFP's work.

A. ASSESSMENTS

To support joint identification and mitigation of child protection risks, consider:

- ✓ All data related to children's food security and nutrition must be disaggregated by minimum age, sex, disability and other context specific relevant factors.
- ✓ Map the child protection and GBV actors in the area of operation and obtain the relevant referral information (where, how, when).
- ✓ Establishing child protection focal points within WFP teams that are trained by child protection actors; and/or on the advice of child protection actors. Focal points can support collaboration, encourage agreement on key decisions and processes, refer child protection concerns and ensure that food security interventions are child-friendly, accessible and safe. The child protection focal points must have a good understanding of child protection issues and how they relate to gender, age and disability.
- ✓ Establishing an informal or formal (MoU) or partnership with child protection actors/any existing community/village child protection committees to conduct joint consultation with children to inform targeting, registration and programme design.



For an example of how to integrate child protection into food security assessments please refer to the annex on page 32 which is an example of an assessment template piloted in Mali, Central African Republic and Niger.

B. TARGETING AND PRIORITISATION

✓ Analyse how age, sex and disability intersect with food security and nutrition data to better understand the profile of households at risk of adopting negative coping mechanisms (child marriage, removing children from school etc.) to inform targeting and prioritisation of households identified as at-risk.
✓ Consider the referral of households from child protection actors.
✓ Consult child protection actors and GBV actors on the targeting criteria and how to actively engage affected populations in the process.
✓ Establish a partnership with child protection actors to provide direct assistance to separated, unaccompanied and child headed households, work on preventing child labour, combating child marriage or to safely and confidentially engage children on their needs and preferences.
✓ Consider how WFP can leverage its presence in areas where there is no child protection presence. For example, by facilitating access, by considering a partnership to promote comprehensive programming, by advocating the child protection sub-sector.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

✓ Hiring both male and female employees to work with communities. Ensure partners have gender disaggregated teams too and help and feedback desks include a woman and a man.
✓ Ensure all employees are trained on PSEA, child safeguarding and how to safely and confidentially refer cases. All frontline employees should have access or know where to access information on child protection services in their area of operation.
✓ Allocate a contingency budget for follow up of any child protection cases identified during implementation of the programme.
✓ Consider identifying a CO level child protection focal point who is responsible for representing WFP in child protection related forums and engaging with child protection actors.

D. CAPACITY BUILDING & AWARENESS-RAISING

✓ Train WFP and partner employees on child safeguarding, how to safely engage with children and have WFP employees ensure they sign a Code of Conduct.
✓ Consolidate and disseminate up to date information on child protection referral pathways and benefited from an awareness-raising session on how to identify and safely and confidentially refer a child protection case.
✓ Train financial service providers, suppliers, partners and project management committees' members on preventing child labour, child safeguarding, codes of conduct and PSEA. Identify two members of the project management committee to provide support/additional information to children should they find it necessary.
✓ Post visible, child-friendly messaging on child safeguarding and preventing and reporting sexual exploitation and abuse at all distribution sites.

E. NUTRITION

- ✓ The design of WFP nutrition programming should be based on consultations with actors working on providing sexual reproductive health services, gender-based response services, child protection actors and women's groups and associations.
- ✓ Potential partnerships with child protection and/or GBV actors should be considered to respond to the needs of pregnant and breastfeeding girls. Regardless of whether the nutrition activities specifically target adolescent or not it should be assumed that adolescents will be beneficiaries.
For example, coordinating with other actors to including specific items for children and for pregnant and breastfeeding girls and women.
- ✓ Conduct interactive workshop at launch of project with nutrition and child protection staff to:
 - Identify the specific child protection risks associated with malnutrition in their specific context.
 - Identify specific child protection risks that can result from the nutrition intervention itself, for example caregivers might limit/stop feeding their children in order for them to stay in nutrition programmes.
 - Develop an action plan to mitigate and respond to these child protection risks

F. ASSET CREATION, RESILIENCE AND LIVELIHOODS

WFP recognises that the concept of child labour is different to that of a working child and WFP holds a zero-tolerance position toward child labour. This approach

is applicable to WFP's contract, private partnership and programme areas. WFP recognizes and upholds the principles and regulations on child labour established by the ILO including ILO Convention 138.

The table below provide additional information on how to determine which activities are appropriate.

Minimum Age in Relation to the Different Types of Work Children do as per ILO Convention 136 ¹¹		
	The minimum age at which the child can start work	Possible exceptions for developing countries ¹²
<p>Hazardous work: Any work which is likely to jeopardize children's physical, mental, or moral health, safety or morals should not be done by anyone under the age of 18 years. Examples of Hazardous Work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture (e.g. Rice farming & milling) • Quarrying - Artisanal mining (Gold and other metals) • Traditional tie & dye (informal sector) • Processing of animal skin • Domestic house services (house-boys/house-girls) • Scavenging trash & recycling collection • Street work - Begging (street begging and leading of beggars) • All aspects of construction works. • All aspects of transport (Bus conducting, commercial motorcycle riding, bus park touting, roadside vehicle repairs) 	18	18
<p>Basic Minimum Age: The minimum age for work should not be below the age for finishing compulsory schooling and in any case not less than 15.</p>	15	14
<p>Light Work: Children age 13 to 15 years old may do light work, as long as it does not threaten their health and safety or hinder their education or vocational orientation and training.</p>	13-15	12-14

11 ILO standards-Possible exception is made if the legal working age in certain countries is lower than the ILO standard. National law must be consulted for this.

12 Countries make a self-declaration where they determine for themselves whether they are a "developing country" and therefore qualified to make use of this provision to set the minimum working ages below the standards, which apply to developed countries. Articles 2 & 5 of Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)

Depending on the context and the type of activities considered by livelihood and asset creation there might be instances where children aged 14 to 18 may be able

to benefit and safely participate in asset creation and livelihood activities (e.g. training on asset management, use or maintenance).

✓ **Train WFP colleagues and partners on identifying the age of volunteers selected for livelihoods work.**

Directly asking the age may lead to lying, better to ask indirect questions. For example: age when started school, no. of years at school, no. of years since left school, age when left school.

✓ **Conduct an analysis on whether safe work can be provided to working age children within the program. The eligibility of and the type of work applicable to the 14-17 age group must be discussed and agreed upon during the Community-based Participatory Planning (CBPP) process before proceeding to better understand the risks they may face and tailor the activities to reflect their needs and interests. Please refer to section 4.1. for information on how to consult children.**

- If it is deemed feasible and appropriate design different types of work to suit different ability groups.
- Children should work in different zones and all areas should be monitored so child safeguarding issues can be minimised and readily identified.
- Children and adults should be provided with the necessary protective equipment.

✓ **Ensure enough employees and financial resources are allocated for consistent monitoring of worksites. Monitoring is important to evaluate how the livelihoods intervention is affecting children.**

✓ **All participants should be informed, in a way that is comprehensible to them, of their rights and responsibilities, the expected behaviours of staff and others, and how to report concerns regarding safeguarding, protection or safe practice.**

✓ **All adult beneficiaries should receive child safeguarding training so they know how to recognise and report any concerns they may have when working directly with children.**

✓ **Ensure child care arrangements are in place for mothers (including adolescent mothers) who come to work.**

- If children are left at home, who looks after them?
- If children are brought to work, where do they stay and what do they do? Who has access to them? Are they supervised? Is child care provided for working mothers?
- Is their potential for integration with a Safe Space programme?

✓ **Assets selected can be designed to mitigate and respond to specific CP and GBV risks and respond to the specific needs of children and adolescents. Some examples under the standard categories include:**

- water harvesting programmes can reduce burden of water collection for adolescent girls and mothers which exposes them to SGBV and leaves their children unattended or with other caregivers;
- a selection of social services and infrastructure based upon CP and GBV risk mapping/safety audits such street lighting to respond to sexual violence;
- safer roads to reduce injuries and enhance access for children and adolescents to essential services such as schools and health centres;
- renovation or reconstruction of a school building/classrooms or building or sex-segregated latrines;
- bridges that shorten children's access to schools, renovations of destroyed schools.

Please refer to the WFP (2017) [Guidance to Prevent the use of child labour in WFP Operations and Programmes](#) for more information.

G. SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMING

<p>✓ WFP school-based programming activities should build on context and protection analysis at community and school level and establish partnerships with Education and Child Protection actors to design and implement risk prevention and mitigation measures (e.g. home-based learning in periods of particular security volatility, etc.)</p> <p>For example, barriers can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescent girls suffer disproportionately from the lack of appropriate school infrastructure, e.g. lack of WASH facilities discourage menstruating adolescent girls from attending school • Walking distance to school discourages students with disabilities and girls, boys from attending • Adolescent girls are often key caregivers, which results in absenteeism if alternative childcare arrangements are not available • Birth certificates (may prevent enrolment and/or graduation) • Early and forced marriage • Accessible environments to include students with disabilities • A data protection breach may expose beneficiaries to risk
<p>✓ Agree on safety and inclusion standards for schools with partners and ensure that these are met in supported schools.</p>
<p>✓ Agree on safety and inclusion standards for schools with partners and ensure that these are met in supported schools.</p>
<p>✓ Consult communities to understand beliefs and practices around education for girls and boys and to identify opportunities to draw on community resources and capacities to support access to education. Consider how to carefully address any harmful customs and beliefs to avoid offending communities.</p>
<p>✓ In collaboration with child protection actors/government stakeholders provide a session to Parent teacher associations, teachers and headmasters on WFP child safeguarding requirements.</p>
<p>✓ Work with the respective child protection actors to provide children with information on how to identify and report (a) barriers to access and (b) child protection risks in and around educational facilities. Display Childline Number (if this is an available service) and ensure beneficiaries are aware of this service and how to access it.</p>
<p>✓ Ensure school have an adequate and reliable supply of water as well as gender and age-appropriate handwashing facilities with soap and toilets within or close to the school. Ensure WASH facilities are clean, well maintained and lit. Toilets should be sex-segregated (with clear signage), lockable from the inside and accessible for girls, boys and children with disabilities. Facilities should also include the discrete disposal (and laundering) of hygiene/menstrual hygiene products.</p>
<p>✓ Using information gathered during consultations to develop and conduct sensitisation workshops on the importance of education, particularly for adolescent girls.</p>
<p>✓ Engage and advocate with government authorities and armed actors to protect education from attacks by adopting, enforcing, and respecting the Oslo Safe School Declaration.</p>

H. EMERGENCY UNCONDITIONAL ASSISTANCE (IN-KIND AND CASH-BASED TRANSFERS)

IN-KIND	CASH-BASED TRANSFERS
<p>Adapt food packages based on feedback from consultation with child protection actors.</p>	<p>Consider at least the following when conducting your analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If there are laws preventing children from accessing FSPs or other forms of assistance e.g. there may be legal age restrictions on banking or mobile network operators (MNOs) distributing SIM cards to minors ✓ Whether there are discrete and flexible delivery mechanisms which can be used with children ✓ Children's situation, for example are they UASC, head of household, parents, etc., and whether their inclusion/exclusion from assistance exposes them to greater risks and vulnerabilities ✓ Children's ability to access physical markets and the risks they might be exposed to in doing so ✓ Whether children can safely store physical cash or cash equivalents ✓ Children's perception of risks and preferred method of assistance

<p>Adapt food packages based on feedback from consultation with child protection actors.</p>	<p>Consider at least the following when conducting your analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If there are laws preventing children from accessing FSPs or other forms of assistance e.g. there may be legal age restrictions on banking or mobile network operators (MNOs) distributing SIM cards to minors ✓ Whether there are discrete and flexible delivery mechanisms which can be used with children ✓ Children's situation, for example are they UASC, head of household, parents, etc., and whether their inclusion/exclusion from assistance exposes them to greater risks and vulnerabilities ✓ Children's ability to access physical markets and the risks they might be exposed to in doing so ✓ Whether children can safely store physical cash or cash equivalents ✓ Children's perception of risks and preferred method of assistance
<p>Regularly consult child protection actors, project management committees and child headed households and children who are registered as primary beneficiaries including children with disabilities to make sure they have safe and meaningful access</p>	<p>Consider identifying community members or focal points within the project management committees that can provide support to children directly receiving cash-based transfer on food preparation, shopping and cooking where relevant.</p>
<p>Designing queuing arrangements that:</p> <p>(a) ensure children remain with their parents;</p> <p>(b) include a lost-child help zone</p>	<p>Training on financial literacy, the delivery mechanism, and what constitutes child abuse or exploitation, and other project communications should be done in a child friendly manner and delivered using materials that are accessible to children. Seek advice from protection actors who are experienced in working with children on how to adapt the training you are delivering to others. FSP contracts should also include a clause on child safeguarding.</p> <p>Where there are concerns about children's capacity to manage funds and budget appropriately consider splitting transfers to children (or other vulnerable recipients) into bi-weekly, or weekly, instalments and advocating with Child Protection actors to compliment CVA distributions with life skills courses on financial management.</p>
<p>Conduct smaller but more frequent distributions and establish a CO level monitoring mechanism to be able to regularly consult children registered as primary recipients about their experience and whether they are facing any challenges</p>	<p>Explore the possibility of conducting recreational activities during distributions to keep children safely engaged while parents/caregivers receive distribution items. These can be small-scale and very basic (e.g. providing a football, marked area and adult supervision).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consider a partnership (field level agreement) with a child protection actor to provide food assistance to separated, unaccompanied and child headed households. ✓ Ensure shelter/shade is available at distribution points for breastfeeding women and children and for caregivers with babies and young children. ✓ The distribution site does not infringe on other child-centred community activities such as school attendance. E.g. school playgrounds and buildings should not be used as distribution sites. ✓ Work with child protection actors to ensure information is displayed in a child friendly way and the community feedback mechanism is age appropriate. ✓ Are their factors increasing the likelihood of children becoming separated from their families during food distributions? (Such as size of gathering, lack of proper queuing etc.) Are better forms of 'crowd control' needed? Additional care should be considered during distributions of newly displaced people. ✓ Ensure that food is first distributed to children with specific needs and pregnant and breastfeeding women, then other community members. ✓ Regularly consult child protection actors, project management committees and child headed households and children who are registered as primary beneficiaries including children with disabilities to make sure they have safe and meaningful access. 	

5. Targeting and Registering Minors

Information on children belongs to the children. Those who keep the information do so on their behalf and should use it only in their best interest, and with their informed consent or assent depending on their age and household status. Regardless of whether or not WFP is collecting biometric data it is indispensable to apply the ethical guidelines on consent and assent. Please refer to the table below for more information on how and when to request assent and consent.

As per WFP Guidance the use of biometrics with children is considered

✓ **Legitimate** when implementing assistance programmes that target children directly with the purpose of preventing and treating adverse health/nutritional.

✗ **Not legitimate** when implementing assistance programmes that target children through institutions (e.g. general school feeding programmes, blanket nutrition programmes in schools) or in case of household-level data collection/programme assistance, even if all individuals within a household are registered (e.g. General Food Assistance programmes, etc.).

WFP Beneficiary Identity Management Guidance and the WFP Guide to Personal Data Protection and Privacy aligns the **minimum age for biometric registration as 14 years**.¹³ However, in all decisions affecting children it is paramount to understand and prioritize what is in the child's best interest. In case of any doubt WFP shall seek the advice of a child protection actor or, when available, a WFP protection officer.

The registration (biometric or otherwise) of children under the age of 14 years for any form of assistance including school-based programming must be based on an analysis that determines that the benefits of registering the child outweighs the associated protection risks of not doing so. WFP and partners shall coordinate with Child Protection (CP) Specialists (this can also be the ministry responsible for the welfare and protection of children)¹⁴ in country to adapt the global registration guidelines and consent/assent forms to the respective context. Child protection colleagues in country will have conducted formal/informal assessments on key child protection risks, developed SOPs, and adapted consent/assent forms, to be relevant for the context. Thus, it is important to collaborate to ensure a contextualized child protection lens. While there are guidelines and definitions below, there would be added nuance in country, including national laws, practices, etc., to take into account.



13 Aligned with admission to participate in light work as per ILO guidance on child labour conventions 138 and 182

14 Sources of Identification can include: Children and families, Community members/civil society, Schools and education services, Health services, Population registration services (asylum seekers/ refugees), Law enforcement agencies, Child protection agencies and other humanitarian agencies/sectors.

KEY CRITERIA

	Accompanied (has parents or a legally recognised caregiver)		Unaccompanied or separated		Child-headed household (refers specifically to a sister or brother taking care of siblings or a child-girl who has her own children)	
	08-14 years	15 years and above	08-14 years	15 years and above	08-14 years	15 years and above
Registration (biometric and non-biometric)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent to be given by the parent/ caregiver and assent by the child. For a child under 8 years only the consent from the parent or care-giver is required. The consent and assent does not need to be written but it must be clearly documented that it was requested. Biometrics only for targeted health/ nutrition programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent from the parent and consent from the child. The consent and assent does not need to be written but it must be clearly documented that it was requested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assent from the child must be given and WFP needs to coordinate with child protection actors to identify a reliable caregiver. In the absence of child protection actors WFP can coordinate with community leaders and community-based child protection groups. Biometric registration of a child less than 14 years is not possible without consultation of child protection actors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent from the child must be requested. It does not need to be written. Registration of the child as an independent household is possible on the condition that it is in the child's best interest. WFP needs to coordinate with child protection actors to determine if the independent registration of the child is in their best interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assent from the child must be given and WFP needs to coordinate with child protection actors to determine if the independent registration of the child is in their best interest. A child of 14 years can be registered as independent household if they are the primary caregiver. In this case WFP needs the consent of the child. Biometrics only for targeted health/ nutrition programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent from the child must be requested. It does not need to be written. Registration of the child as an independent household is possible on the condition that it is in the child's best interest for example they are the primary caregiver. WFP needs to coordinate with child protection actors to determine if the independent registration of the child is in their best interest.
Consultations (food security assessments, nutrition activities, school-based programmes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent to be given by the parent/ caregiver and assent by the child. It is strongly discouraged for WFP to consult children below the age of 10 years. Consultation must take place in collaboration with child protection actors. No need to collect personal identifiable data for consultation purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent to be given by the parent/ caregiver and consent by the child. Consultation must take place in collaboration with child protection actors. No need to collect personal identifiable data for consultation purposes. 	Only to be consulted in collaboration and coordination with child protection actors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent to be given by the parent/ caregiver and assent by the child. It is strongly discouraged for WFP to consult children below the age of 10 years. Consultation must take place in collaboration with child protection actors. No need to collect personal identifiable data for consultation purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent to be given by the parent/ caregiver and assent by the child (head of household/ primary beneficiary). Consultation must take place in collaboration with child protection actors. No need to collect personal identifiable data for consultation purposes. 	

In practice WFP is regularly confronted with two scenarios: a) Registering minors with caretakers; and b) Registering separated minors, unaccompanied minors and child headed households.

REGISTERING MINORS (WITH CARETAKERS)

This process for biometrically registering minors/ children is comprehensively covered/outlined in the Data Beneficiary Management Guidance and the WFP Guide to Personal Data Protection and Privacy. The collection of children's biometrics must be considered legitimate and in the case of minors, parents or legal guardians should provide consent on their behalf.

If a child is below 15 years of age, they must be given the opportunity to provide their assent (oral) and above 15 years of age they must be given the opportunity to provide their consent (written) in addition to the consent provided by the legal caretaker/parent.

REGISTERING SEPARATED MINORS, UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND CHILD HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

If a child is less than 14 years it is recommended that a suitable caregiver be identified together with the support of child protection actors and the child's participation (assent/consent) to ensure the best interest of the child is taken into primary consideration when identifying how best to register the child.¹⁵ *There are however exceptions for example, if the child is deemed to be the primary caregiver (girl with a child in a nutrition programme), and in consultation with child protection actors the registration of the child as the primary recipient is deemed as in the child's best interest another form of registration (non-biometric) should be identified.*

For example, in the case of a girl under the age of 14 who has children of her own, is the primary caregiver and is eligible for enrolment in a nutrition besides registering the child as the primary recipient it is essential to consult child protection actors and gender-based violence service providers to understand what additional services the child may need to ensure they can protect and fully benefit from their entitlement.

GENERAL CONDITIONS WHICH APPLY TO THE COLLECTION OF ALL CHILDREN'S (18 AND BELOW) BIOMETRICS ARE:

- **Service should be CHILD FRIENDLY** – entails providing services in ways that are appropriate and accessible for children. For example, by providing information in

formats / language that can be understood by children of different ages.

- **WFP must obtain informed consent from the child (and/ or their parent/ caregiver).** When children are too young (under 15 years) to consent, their informed assent should be sought (i.e. willingness to participate in services) while a parent or caregiver gives consent. The informed assent/ consent process must include explaining to the child (and their parent/ caregiver, where appropriate) exactly why they are gathering information, how it will be used and by whom. For information on how and when to request consent and assent please refer to Sample Consent and Assent Guidance & Form_Minors.

- **Images of children should only be taken with consent/assent of the child and parental permission** (or with permission from the person legally authorized to give consent on behalf of the minor).¹⁵

- **Caution for iris scan:** Due to the high level of discomfort experienced by parents and children with this type of biometrics, the use of iris scan for children is discouraged. Photos and fingerprints may be collected upon the conditions;

- **Information and communication:** The collection of informed consent must be preceded by adequate information and communication involving parents, guardians and children;

- **Possibility to opt out:** Children or their parents and guardians, must be enabled to opt out without being discriminated in their access to assistance. Children's biometrics cannot be a necessary condition for delivering assistance.

- **Deletion of data:** If, parents, tutors, guardians, legal representatives, or persons with power of attorney request data deletion on behalf of a child or other individual in their care, for protection reasons WFP should ask them to provide the reason for deletion and explain any effects deletion may have on the assistance they receive.

- **Precautions must be taken when sharing and publishing information on unaccompanied and separated children,** including photographs of children for tracing. It is important to know who has access to the information that will be collected.

¹⁵ Refer to UNICEF's guidelines for further information: http://www.unicef.org/media/media_tools_guidelines.html

¹⁶ WFP Beneficiary Identity Management Guidance and the [WFP Guide to Personal Data Protection and Privacy](#) establishes the minimum age for registration as 14 years (admission to participate in regular work). These age categories are aligned with ILO guidance on child labour (conventions 138 and 182).

Depending on the context consider the following steps:

✓ **There are child protection actors present in the area of operation** - In coordination with child protection actors consult unaccompanied minors, child headed households to determine whether the conditions are favorable for child headed households, unaccompanied and spontaneously fostered children to have ration cards in their own names in alignment with WFP guidelines on requirements. This assessment will allow WFP and partners to make a decision based on the child's best interest.

✗ **There are no child protection actors present in the area of operation or if it is difficult for child protection actors to dedicate time to support** - Enquire about the presence of community-based child protection mechanisms and the possibility for child protection actors to conduct a session for WFP staff on how to safely and confidentially consult children. Consider establishing a partnership with child protection actors so they can implement on WFP's behalf.

Develop country level procedures/guidance/SOP for the registration and provision of assistance to children enrolled in WFP activities with attention to separated minors and child headed households, or households where the primary caretaker is a child. This guidance should be developed in consultation with child protection actors or the ministry responsible for child welfare and the respective regional bureau humanitarian advisor and HQ data protection and data beneficiary management team.



6. Tools and Resources

ANNEX 1: SAMPLE CONSENT AND ASSENT FORM

The template below provides a generic example of a consent and assent form that can be used. However, WFP and partners should coordinate with Child Protection (CP) Specialists, including the CP Coordination Group Coordinator or the respective ministry dealing with children's rights in country to adapt the global consent/assent form. CP colleagues in country will have conducted formal/informal assessments on key CP issues, developed and adapted consent/assent forms, to be relevant for the context.

The script below should accompany an informed consent/assent form used in your practice setting. [After asking each of the following questions, look and get implicit approval that s/he/they has understood. Repeat the question if necessary.]

My name is ___[] and I am working with WFP/(insert name of cooperating partner). WFP is a United Nations Organisation, which helps providing food assistance.

[**Provide comprehensive information on the reason for collecting the consent/assent.** This could be for assessment, monitoring and evaluation or registration purposes. Explain the services and options available (i.e. the process), potential risks and benefits to receiving services, information that will be collected and how it will be used, and confidentiality and its limits.]

It is important for you to know that I will keep what you tell me confidential, including any notes that I write down. This means that I will not tell anyone what you tell me or any other information about your case, unless you ask me to, or it is information that I need to share because you are in danger. I may not be able to keep all the information to myself, and I will explain why. The times I would need to share the information you have given me is if:

- I find out that you are in very serious danger, I would have to tell [insert appropriate child protection agency here] about it.
- Or, you tell me you have made plans to seriously hurt yourself, I would have to tell your parents or another trusted adult. If you tell me you have made a plan to seriously hurt someone else, I would have to report that. I would not be able to keep these problems just between you and me.
- In cases of UN or NGO workers perpetrating sexual abuse and exploitation I would also need to report this.
- [Explain mandatory reporting requirements as they apply in your local setting].

Your identity will be kept strictly confidential and will not be shown to others unless your written agreement is received to do so. Your participation is voluntary, and you can choose not to answer any or all of the questions. Your refusal will have no impact on eligibility in any way present or future, for you or your family.

Before we begin, I would also like to share with you your rights as we work together. I share this same information with everyone I speak with:

- It's okay if there is something you want to tell me, but you'd rather I not write it down while we talk.
- You have the right not to answer any question that I ask you.
- You have the right to ask me to stop or slow down if you are feeling upset or scared.
- You have the right to be interviewed alone or with a caregiver/trusted person with you. This is your decision.

- You have the right to ask me any questions you want to, or to let me know if you do not understand something I say.

Useful contacts

If you have questions about [insert purpose of requesting consent/assent] do not hesitate to ask me. You can also consult with a person you trust like a teacher or doctor. If there is anything you are unhappy about you can also contact (insert toll free number of WFP and child protection actor in the area and information on where they are located-helpdesk).

Do you have any questions?

May I have your permission to continue?

I will also give you a copy of this paper to keep for yourself. You can ask your parents/guardian to look after it if you want.

Certificate of Informed Assent (oral > 15 years of age and written < 15 years of age)

I understand that the purpose of this [insert purpose of data collection] is in order to help WFP and other organisations to provide aid/assistance in the future. I understand that I have the right to withdraw my information at any stage of the process.

Statement by the child

I have read this information (or had the information read to me), I have had my questions answered and know that I can ask questions later if I have them.

ANNEX 2: EXAMPLE OF A ToR FOR COLLABORATION WITH A CHILD PROTECTION ACTOR TO CONSULT CHILDREN

Collaboration between World Food Programme and [insert child protection actor] to understand the food security needs and preferences of children (10-17 years of age)

INTRODUCTION

The World Food Programme (WFP) currently does not have the required skillset or appropriate tools to consult children with and without disabilities on their food security needs and priorities. This limits WFP's capacity to determine what factors can contribute to facilitating their safe and meaningful access to food assistance and their participation in WFP related activities. WFP would like to strengthen its ability to consult children. [Child Protection Actor] has a child protection mandate and experience engaging and consulting children. Plan International supports the implementation of WFP food security related activities in the Central African Republic.

WFP in collaboration with government stakeholders and food security actors is conducting a national level food security and nutrition assessment in [insert month/date]. This exercise provided a unique opportunity to pilot an approach to consulting children within the context of food security assessments. [Child Protection Actor] is currently operating in six of the locations that will be targeted by the assessment and has dedicated employees available to adjust the existing household survey and focus group discussion and too support the delivery of the child friendly tool.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this collaboration is to consult children with and without disabilities between the ages of 15-17 years (adolescents) on their food security needs, preferences and safety concerns.

1. Seek feedback on boys and girls with and without disabilities specifically unaccompanied minors and child headed households on their food security and nutrition needs and preference.
2. Collect rapid knowledge of negative coping mechanisms (protection risks) adopted by children to meet food security needs.
3. To collect information about children's capacities and priorities.

METHODOLOGY

a) Sample size

This assessment will be conducted only in locations where [Child Protection Actor] has a sub-office. [Child Protection Actor] will dedicate two staff per location) will be available to support in the facilitation in every location where Plan has a sub-office.

[Explain the methodology] This will depend of the number and speed of facilitators/Data collectors. There will be 4 groups per locality; approximately 2 hours with each group and 2 facilitators per group. With the size of 10 children per group, it will be possible to reach 40 children per day which makes approximately 200 children per week.

b) Data Collection Tool

[Child Protection Actor] proposes to conduct two separate activities with children:

- Focus group discussion: the questions cover access to economic resources, WASH and nutrition on top of food security and child protection. Feel free to let us know if the guide needs to be shortened.
- Participatory activity: a day in the life of the child. This activity aims to understand how children spend their time during the day. It can provide good information on how children support food supply and IGAs within their family, specific differences between boys and girls and the consequences this has on their education, recreational activities, health etc.

The data will be collected using paper.

THE ROLE OF THE WFP

- WFP will be conducting a training for all facilitators on Nov 7th2020 and will share the training programme with [Child Protection Actor] colleagues to facilitate their participation.
- WFP will dedicate a session to [Child Protection Actor] within the context of the training of the facilitators and widely disseminate any information including referral pathways provided by Plan International in this forum.
- WFP will coordinate the engagement and participation of [Child Protection Actor] in the national level assessment sharing the focus group discussion and key informant interview tools and the timeline for the data collection.
- WFP will support the activities with children by identifying a field monitor to be paired with [Child Protection Actor] staff.
- WFP will support the analysis and the dissemination of the information.

THE ROLE OF [CHILD PROTECTION ACTOR]

- Provide an alternative tool and guidance on the methodology to adopt to implement this tool. This methodology and tool will be shared with WFP. The tool will be in [insert language].
- The tool tailored to children will be piloted in the 6 prefectures where [Child Protection Actor] is currently operating and where WFP and partners will also be conducting the food security needs assessment (EFSA). This tool will not be integrated into the broader assessment at this stage.
- Support in identifying children to participate in the FGD/KII. These assessments will be led by [Child Protection Actor] in conjunction with the Child sub-sector dedicated personnel with the support of a member of the food security assessment team.

ANNEX 3: KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IN FOOD SECURITY, MARKET AND NUTRITION NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

All indicators about children should be disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other relevant diversity factors.

- Use the glossary introduced provide clear guidelines on the definition of a child (0-17 years), an unaccompanied minor, a separated minor and a child headed household. When conducting assessments and monitoring, remember that the classic 'household' model may not apply to many children at risk, such as children living alone, on the street or in child-headed households.
- Disaggregate by gender, age and disability to identify and address risks and barriers that prevent children with disabilities from equally accessing goods, services, spaces and information. Working with child protection actors and signing the child safe guarding directive facilitates WFP ability to consult separated, unaccompanied and child headed households between 10-17 years. In a household with an adult caregiver WFP can consult the children on their respective experience with the consent of the adult caregiver.
- Estimate the prevalence of child labour and the worst forms of child labour by collecting, at a minimum, data on:
 - › The number of children involved in agricultures, income generating activities, working and other harmful forms of child labour, regardless of the minimum working age;
 - › The number of hours they work; and
 - › The types of work they perform (sector, task and condition).
- What is the incidence of child separated? Unaccompanied? A child headed household? If WFP has no support from child protection actors during the data collection stage and therefore cannot consult separated, unaccompanied and child headed household under the age of 18 years directly document any HHs including unaccompanied children under 15 that were in the random sampling but excluded from the survey. No need to collect any personal information at this stage (no name, address of contact details) we would just like to get an idea of the number of households excluded.

- When collecting information on migration of household members for work ask if the household member was a child? If the household member was an adult was there another adult to be a caregiver or was a child responsible for the household in their absence?
- Document the gender roles within the children in the household?
- Document the role of children in the market place disaggregated by gender, age and disability? This can be collected through market assessment observations. Do children provide transportation for commodities; sell commodities in the market, clean etc.
- What is the role of children in the home disaggregated by gender, age and disability? Who eats first, who eats last, who collects water and firewood?
- When documenting information on school attendance disaggregate the information by minimum gender, age and disability.
- Gender and age disaggregate the livelihood coping mechanisms to identify economic opportunities for older adolescents that could contribute to their development and to the welfare of their families.

When the data consolidation and analysis is complete consult child protection actors to provide feedback, comments/insights and determine mitigation measures to address protection risks. Child protection actors can also inform targeting and vulnerability criteria.

Additional Resources

- Plan Int. and WFP food security questionnaire developed to consult children can be found [here](#).
- Market Assessment Toolkit for Vocational Training Providers and Youth, Women's Refugee Commission, 2008. Pages 101 to 120 provide focus group discussion, key informant and a basic analysis templates to capture the priorities risk and interests of youth: https://s333660.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Market_Assessment_Toolkit_rev_2013.pdf
- Child Alliance, 2020. Child Labour Toolkit

ANNEX 4: SAMPLE REFERRAL PATHWAY TO REGISTER SEPARATED, UNACCOMPANIED AND CHILD HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

! Before beginning the activity, familiarise yourself with child protection actors in the area. These may be UN agencies, INGOs, CSOs, a branch of the government or community-based structures.

1. Inform them about the activity

2. Ask for their advice, guidance, and technical support to register separated, unaccompanied and child headed households; for example, in setting up a desk at the registration site and communicating to children the process.



Sample process for registering child headed households, separated and unaccompanied children.

Relevant for when, during registration (including biometric registration), either of the below are identified:



A household is fostering a child



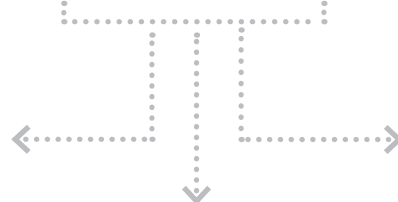
The head of the household is a child

NO CP Actors Present:

Child with no family or caregiver (unaccompanied) under the age of 14 years

CP Actors Present:

Refer to child protection actor selected and WAIT for confirmation about whether the child should be registered with a foster household or alone. **Only child protection actors have the capacity to verify caregivers.**



Child headed household (child under the age of 14 years taking care of an older family member, a mother who has her own children or sibling taking care of other children)

CP Actors Present:

NO CP Actors Present:

Child with extended family (separated) under the age of 14 years

CP Actors Present:

Refer to child protection actor selected and WAIT for confirmation about whether the child should be registered with a foster household or alone. **Only child protection actors have the capacity to verify caregivers.**

Consult protection actors on how to understand the risks associated with registering the child and what mitigation measures are available. If the benefits outweigh the risks this may result in WFP registering the child as the primary recipient. In that case, WFP must ensure it regularly monitors the child's safe access to assistance.

ANNEX 5: REFERRING CASES OF CHILD PROTECTION

When developing the CO Community Feedback Mechanism Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on how to handle, register and refer cases from children it is important to distinguish cases between

1. a child reporting issues with their entitlements or barriers in accessing the assistance for example I cannot carry the food home, cases of child protection such as sexual exploitation and abuse;
2. violence or harm done to the child by WFP, partners or other stakeholders implementing an activity; or
3. a child that reports a case of violence in the home.

In the third case (violence in the home) this is a case of child protection that must be referred to child protection actors and does not require WFP to record any identifiable data, WFP can just document that a child protection case was referred with the **CONSENT** of the child if the child is above 15 years of age or the consent of the caregiver and the assent of the child if the child is below 15 years of age.

However, in the first two cases above, WFP will be required to take action and these cases should be classified as highly sensitive and priority issues. These include:

- A child protection-related misconduct issue;
- Suspicion of child exploitation or abuse by WFP personnel, a cooperating partner, a service provider or a supplier;
- Suspicion or allegations of possession or accessing of child pornography or child exploitation material;
- A person having committed, or been arrested for or convicted of, a criminal offence(s) relating to child exploitation or abuse.

WFP personnel are expected to report any behaviour (alleged or suspected) listed above by:

- A WFP employee
- Cooperating partner, contractor or third party, including subcontractors

- Member of community-based structures established by WFP such as the Project Management Committees or Outreach Volunteers;

- Any report made to you by anyone, including a child or community member, relating to notifiable behaviour by the same groups of people listed above.

In such situations it would be the responsibility of the WFP employee to ensure that with the consent of the child (if unaccompanied, separated or child headed household) or the caregiver of the child that the complaint is well documented and the necessary steps taken.

All sensitive complaints should be flagged as high priority and reported to senior management. Reports of sexual exploitation and abuse involving WFP or Cooperating Partners should be reported to the Country Office SEA focal point or the Office of Inspections and Investigations (OIGI) in headquarters for formal investigation.

Example of a Child Referral Pathway (accessible on the Child Sub-cluster national website or upon request from lead ministries). It is important that WFP and partner employees engaging with children have access to this information at all times.

ANNEX 6: LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND POLICIES

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES	
<p>The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocols</p>	<p>Rights guaranteed under the Convention include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Discrimination • Best interests • Right to life • Participation <p>Additional stipulations under Optional Protocols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No recruitment or use of children • Prohibition of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
<p>Paris Principles on Children and Armed Groups (2007)</p>	<p>Intend to guide international interventions to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent child recruitment • Facilitate release and reintegration of children • Ensure most protective environment for children • Provide definitions and overarching principles for engagement with children associated with armed groups or armed forces • Address the specific situation of girls
<p>The fundamental ILO Standards on Child Labour</p>	<p>Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) - [ratifications]</p> <p>This fundamental convention sets the general minimum age for admission to employment or work at 15 years (13 for light work) and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18 (16 under certain strict conditions). It provides for the possibility of initially setting the general minimum age at 14 (12 for light work) where the economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed.</p> <p>Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)]</p> <p>This fundamental convention defines as a “child” a person under 18 years of age. It requires ratifying states to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; child prostitution and pornography; using children for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs; and work which is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. The convention requires ratifying states to provide the necessary and appropriate direct assistance for the removal of children from the worst forms of child labour and for their rehabilitation and social integration. It also requires states to ensure access to free basic education and, wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training for children removed from the worst forms of child labour.</p>

International Humanitarian Law	Article 68(3) of the Rome Statute is the central provision related to victims' participation. It states: "(...) where the personal interests of the victims are affected, the Court shall permit their views and concerns to be presented and considered at stages of the proceedings determined to be appropriate by the Court (...)". Moreover, pursuant to Article 68(1) of the Statute, "the Court shall take appropriate measures to protect the safety, physical and psychological wellbeing, dignity and privacy of victims and witnesses having regard to all relevant factors, including age, gender (...) health, and the nature of the crime, in particular... where the crime involves sexual or gender violence or violence against children". ¹⁷
International Human Rights Law	There are many international human rights treaties and domestic laws which protect children's rights. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child protects the rights of all children.
Secretary General in the Six Grave Violations Against Children During Armed Conflict including Security Council Resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011) 2068 (2012), and 2143 (2014).	The Guidelines on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Violations against Children in Situations of Armed Conflict. The MRM seeks to monitor the following six grave violations: a) Killing or maiming of children b) Recruiting or use of children in armed forces and groups c) Attacks against schools or hospitals d) Rape and other forms of sexual violence against children e) Abduction of children f) Denial of humanitarian access to children
Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (SCWG-CAAC)	Reviews reports on violations against children affected by armed conflict committed by parties that are listed in the annexes to the Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict.
The Secretary General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13)	SEA also includes sexual relations with a child, in any context, defined as a human being below the age of 18 years.

STRATEGIES AND GLOBAL GUIDANCE

IASC's Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action Guidelines (2019) and UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (2019)
Global Child Protection Working Group's Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2012 and revised in 2019)
INEE's Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies (2010)
Oslo Safe Schools Declaration (2015) and related Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict

WFP SPECIFIC

Protection and Accountability (2020)
WFP Guidance Note to Prevent the Use of Child Labour in WFP Operations and Programmes (2017)
The four Circulars issued by WFP on PSEA (ED2003/005; ED2004/001; ED2005/004; OED2014/020)
Guide to Personal Data Protection and Privacy (2016)
WFP Gender Policy (2015-2020)

¹⁷ The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The text of the Rome Statute reproduced herein was originally circulated as document A/CONF.183/9 of 17 July 1998 and corrected by procès-verbaux of 10 November 1998, 12 July 1999, 30 November 1999, 8 May 2000, 17 January 2001 and 16 January 2002. Published by the International Criminal Court ISBN No. 92-9227-232-2 ICC-PIOS-LT-03-002/15_Eng

Acronyms

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
CBPP	Community-Based Participatory Planning
CBT	Cash-Based Transfer
CFM	Community Feedback Mechanism
CMTF	Case Management Task Force
CO(s)	Country Office(s)
CP	Child Protection
CPMS	Child Protection Minimum Standards
CRC	Children's Rights Council
CSO(s)	Civil Society Organisation(s)
CVA	Cash and Voucher Assistance
CWD(s)	Children With Disability/Disabilities
(E)FSA	(Emergency) Food Security Need Assessment
FGD(s)	Focus Group Discussion(s)
FSP(s)	Family Support Process(es)
HQ	Headquarters
IA	Inter-Agency
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INEE	Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies
IMS	Information Management System
INGO(s)	International Non-Governmental Organisation(s)
KII(s)	Key Informant Interview(s)
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Ally/Asexual (and other non-binary identifiers)
MIRA	Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessments
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
(O)ED	Executive Director's Circular
OSRSG/ CAAC	The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RB(x)	Regional Bureau(x)
(S)GBV	(Sexual and) Gender-Based Violence
SOP(s)	Standard Operating Procedure(s)
TOR	Terms of Reference
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme



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