

Child Protection Area of Responsibility Strategic Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

June 2024

1. Purpose of the Strategic Advisory Group

The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) of the Child Protection AoR is made up of selected key child protection partners that come together regularly to provide strategic direction to the Child Protection AoR. The purpose of the SAG is to provide strategic advice to the CP AoR recognizing that decision making resides with the members of the CP AoR.

2. Guiding principles for the Strategic Advisory Group

As with the Child Protection AoR, the SAG will be guided by the humanitarian and protection principles and the minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action (CPMS 2019) in its work. SAG will adhere to principles in the CPMS 2019 and other humanitarian resources, including, inter alia, the following principles:

- I. The best interests of the child ;
- II. Enhance people's safety, dignity and rights and avoid exposing to further harm
- III. Child participation;
- IV. Strengthen children's resilience;
- V. Strengthen child protection systems;
- VI. Non-Discrimination and inclusion;
- VII. Survival and Development;
- VIII. Age Gender and Diversity
- IX. Sensitive information is subject to confidentiality.

The interests of the CP AoR will be the primary considerations for members (rather than the interests of their individual organization)

3. Responsibilities of the Strategic Advisory Group

The Strategic Advisory Group will have the following areas of responsibility. Input into the three functions of the SAG will be on an ad hoc basis, evenly distributed between members. Whereas attendance at SAG meetings is mandatory for identified members:

a. Strategic advisory role:

- I. Support the AoR to develop and adjust the AoR's strategic framework and key documents, including but not limited to the CP AoR and Protection Working Group Strategy and Humanitarian



- Response Plan (HRP), including establishing priority interventions, prioritization of resources, setting targets and indicators, and monitoring progress on these strategies and plans;
- II. Develop position papers and statements on child protection issues and guide CP AoR inputs into broader Protection Cluster initiatives, such as protection guidelines, child friendly tools for AAP/CE WG, strategy and policy inputs¹;
 - III. Advise on key advocacy messages for Child Protection related issues
 - IV. Support the CP AoR with key decision making on CP AoR related issues
 - V. Advise on and bring child protection priorities to the attention of the Protection Cluster, the ICCG and HCT as well as other stakeholders; with a focus on Child Protection mainstreaming into other sectors/clusters; and
 - VI. Support internal and external evaluation of the CP AoR and sharing of lessons learned.

b. Technical advisory role:

- I. Validate common processes and standards of quality related to the cluster's response such as beneficiary identification and prioritization (targeting); agreement of common standards and approaches; or use of common data collection and information management tools;
- II. Support the roll-out and contextualization of the 2019 edition of the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action;
- III. Provide technical guidance within Protection Cluster and Inter-agency initiatives aimed at strengthening child protection within the response
- IV. Develop CP AoR inputs for funding instruments and initiatives;
- V. Coordinate peer review process to ensure that all CP members adheres to and strengthen application of minimum standards as laid in the CPMS 2019 and the socio-ecological model as needed; and
- VI. Review key programming tools, guidance, standards and benchmarks that are developed for common use before sharing with the AoR membership for validation.

c. Coordination advisory role:

- I. Develop, adjust and monitor the AoR's Work Plan to ensure implementation of the sector's objectives against the HNRP
- II. Support in the coordination of subnational level child protection AoRs mechanisms including standardized representation and communication flows between subnational and national CP AoR;
- III. Recommend the formation of technical working groups/ task forces on ad hoc basis as needed and reviewing overall effectiveness; and
- IV. Improve and strengthen the overall structure, capacity and effectiveness of the Child Protection AoR in line with the six core functions² of clusters.

¹ Note messaging related to CAAG will fall under CTFMR

² Based on 'IASC Reference Module for Cluster Coordination at the Country Level', 2015. The 6 core functions: 1. to support service delivery; 2. To inform the HC/HCT's strategic decision-making; 3. To plan and implement cluster strategies; 4. To monitor and evaluate performance; 5. To build national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning; 6. To support robust advocacy – adapted to subsector for Myanmar



4. Composition of the Strategic Advisory Group

In order to be efficient, the SAG membership is limited to ten members – 1-3 UN agencies, 3 INGOS, 3 local/national NGO and the 2 CP AOR Coordinators. In addition, the SAG will include 1 member from each of the CP AoR Working Groups³. Additional agencies can be invited, on an ad hoc basis, based on agreement quorum where this would strengthen the function of the SAG.

Requirements for membership:

- I. Organizations have significant child protection expertise and operational child protection experience in Myanmar;
- II. Organizations have the ability to be represented at meetings of the SAG in Myanmar in person or online as required;
- III. Organizations have demonstrable technical capacity to contribute to the main area of responsibilities outlined in section 3 above;
- IV. Organizations are represented by senior members of their respective organizations. Each member organization will have one primary focal point to attend the meetings and one alternate to attend in the absence of the primary SAG focal point of the respective organizations;
- V. Membership will be on an individual basis (i.e. one nominated member as Primary SAG Focal Point from identified agencies). Attendance will be by the Primary SAG Focal Point to ensure consistency and strategic decision-making processes.
- VI. Communication within and between SAG members will be through Primary SAG focal point. If possible, in instances primary SAG focal point is unable to attend meetings, remote feedback on priority issues will be accepted and reinforced by alternate within meeting
- VII. Members (Primary Focal Point)⁴ are required to attend a minimum of 75% meetings⁵. Where member does not attend for more than two SAG meetings in a row, the SAG will have the option to discuss and vote to remove such member from the SAG (in consultation with member)
- VIII. All SAG members are expected to commit to constructive cooperation for the wider purpose of the Child Protection AoR. SAG members are expected to meaningfully participate in review and feedback of key CP AOR documents and processes.
- IX. SAG will determine entry procedures for new members and perform periodic reviews on SAG members with option to remove members if abovementioned criteria are not being fulfilled.

5. Methods of work of the Strategic Advisory Group

- I. The SAG will ordinarily meet once every 3 months and will be convened by the CP AOR Coordinators;

³ Note that these may or may not be the representatives from the existing 10 members, on a case by case basis.

⁴ In exceptional circumstances, the secondary focal point may participate in alternative but expectation is that secondary focal point is fully briefed in such cases so as to provide meaningful and informed input

⁵ The CP AoR coordinators will endeavour to hold meetings at a time that suits the majority of primary SAG members



- II. Ad-hoc meetings may be called by the Coordinators or at the request of a SAG member as appropriate;
- III. The CP AOR Coordinators will lead on administrative issues for the smooth running of the SAG, including arranging meeting space/online platforms, sending invitations, documenting meetings and tracking action points;
- IV. An agenda will be circulated in advance of meetings. Any SAG member can request agenda items in advance;

6. Miscellaneous

- I. The duration of the SAG membership is one year;
 - II. Effectiveness and functionality of the SAG will be subject to yearly internal review (self-assessment)
 - III. The selection process will happen through self-nomination and CP AOR elections; and
 - IV. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis, or earlier at the request of a SAG or AoR members.
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