

Community Level Child Protection Working Group, Myanmar Terms of Reference

Child Protection Area of responsibility, Myanmar 2025

Introduction:

As international and national organizations strive to understand and build on existing capacities of communities to respond to child protection concerns and find ways to ensure sustainability of programs beyond the initial international engagement, it becomes increasingly important to reflect upon and strengthen our effectiveness when working with communities. As the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS) Standard 17 state:

‘Community-level approaches support community members to protect children and ensure their right to healthy development. There is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ model. Humanitarian actors should seek to understand existing community capacities that promote children’s rights, safety, development, well-being and participation.’

Globally, and in Myanmar, understandings of community level child protection vary greatly. The typical community based child protection activities rely heavily on an agency-led approaches. The CP AoR, Myanmar, seeks to expand and shift this approach to align with standard 17 of the CPMS and promote a less agency-led and a more community driven approach to CLCP. This is in line with global advances on community child protection, promoting more sustainability with our community level child protection activities and supporting systems strengthening with communities at the heart of activities. Recognizing that supporting local approach(es) requires much time and commitment, with extensive listening, face-to-face research, and an awareness that CLCP will differ depending on the location and cultural specificities in different locations. Acknowledge that community-level child protection efforts must be adaptable to the specific cultural, social, and geographic contexts within Myanmar. This ensures the approach respects local traditions, strengths, and vulnerabilities, making the program more effective and contextually relevant. The Community Level Child Protection Working Group was formed to focus on best and promising community-level practices and support the CP AoR towards this new way of thinking with a view to more sustainable CLCP across Myanmar.

CLCP WG Membership:

The CLCP WG will be led by the CP AoR coordinator(s), and, where possible, will have a rotational Coordinator identified from within the membership. Rotational coordination will be on a yearly basis unless there is a need to rotate earlier

The CLCP WG is based at national level but aims to support subnational interventions, which are aimed at strengthening and supporting CLCP in different locations. We strongly encourage local organizations to participate in the CLCP Working Group, as their insights and contributions are vital for ensuring community-driven and sustainable outcomes. CLCP minutes will be shared with subnational CP AoR colleagues and, as the WG progresses, will endeavour to meaningfully engage with subnational actors and support them with the shift in approaches.

Membership is open to all members of the CP AoR based on a voluntary nomination on an annual basis. New members may be added on a case by case basis with consensus of the WG members.

CLCP Goal:

The goal for the CLCP WG is to support CP AoR members to foster collaborative, community-led initiatives that drive sustainable development and to have the tools, resources and local capacity building to implement quality community level Child Protection programmes in the humanitarian setting that is Myanmar settings in an efficient, coordinated, sensitive, and relevant manner.

CLCP Working Group Priorities and Functions¹:

The detailed list of activities of the CLCP WG will vary year to year and will be based on priority actions identified by the WG, in consultation with the wider CP AoR. The priorities are reviewed and updated on an annual basis, or as needed, identified by the WG or AoR. In particular, the CLCP WG will ensure the following considerations in its work and the work plan:

1. Encourage observation, research, listening, discussion with, and documentation of existing local coping mechanisms and strengths in supporting children's development, safety, and wellbeing through deep context analysis with active engagement with community members
2. Promote extensive meaningful participation and age-gender and disability inclusion of children, getting their views, rights and perceptions of risks, vulnerabilities, prioritization of needs, and existing or desired strategies for addressing needs and risks and perspectives are actively included in community-led initiatives
3. Facilitate organizational and personal reflection to promote more genuine shifts in thinking and action in supporting communities and community approaches
4. Link with the Case Management Task Force, MHPSS WG, Protection Cluster. and other relevant fora to ensure community-level approaches are well-coordinated across all child protection workstreams
5. Engage with child protection local systems for a more cohesive, linked approach, including engagement of local groups such as women's groups and community leaders
6. Promote and maintain an inclusive approach within the working group and in all CLCP work to ensure all voices and groups are participating and have influence
7. Promote the shift towards community ownership in child protection activities and shift away from top-down, agency led community based activities.
8. Support the CP AoR with resources and trainings to continuously promote community ownership in community level child protection activities;
9. Encourage experience sharing within the CP AoR on successes and challenges in shifting towards community level child protection within their programs.
10. Closely engage with the Global Community Child Protection Task Force (CCPTF)
11. implement or support AoR to test, pilot and/or implement new tools and resources developed by the CCPTF to share learning and feedback with the global CCP TF

Roles and Responsibilities

Expectations for all CLCP WG members:

- Identify 1 – 2 focal points from your agency to attend monthly and ad-hoc CLCP WG meetings and follow-up in a timely manner to the requests sent by lead agencies and/or CLCP WG coordinator, including feedback on key documents, emails, etc. whilst making every effort to

respect the agreed deadlines). Members make a commitment to keep in touch and respond to communications and deadlines and will inform the co-leads about possible delays.

- Membership is on an individual basis, representing agencies but are required to have the same individual attend the meetings to ensure continuity of membership
- Share CLCP tools, training materials and resources to lead agencies in order to contribute to the development of interagency technical guidance.
- Participate in inter-agency assessments and research where feasible to do so
- Timely technical review of tools, training materials and guidance materials.
- Be responsible for keeping their respective agency and partners (or regions) informed on achievements, requests, etc. of the CLCP WG, including sharing of key developed documents/resources;
- Report back to the CLCP WG on the progress against applying and utilizing learning obtained through participation in the WG
- Share and orient CP AoR members on new developments, findings, tools and resources to enhance quality CLCP in Myanmar
- Monitoring community-led initiatives to ensure inclusive and sustainable development
- Members advocate for community participation, including marginalized groups and children, while strengthening local capacities through knowledge sharing and resource mobilization.

Expectations for Lead Agencies and Coordinators

- Initiate consultative process for developing annual priorities for action for the CLCP
- Monitor the activities of the CLCP against the bi-annual work plan
- Identify and support CLCP WG coordinators in all aspects of coordination
- Support the CLCP WG to develop and follow annual priorities for action
- Ensure that the CP AoR benefits from the work of the CLCP WG
- Update the membership list and facilitate new application for membership as well as representative replacement of member agencies.
- Prepare for meetings including invitations and agenda setting in advance
- Facilitate the meetings
- Follow up on action points with members
- Initiate communication with members over email between meetings
- Update the CP AoR on the work of the WG in monthly meetings

CLCP WG will meet monthly and on ad hoc meeting as required.