

Terms of Reference

National Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR), Myanmar

Background

Children in Myanmar are exposed to risks of: Separation, killing and maiming, physical and psychosocial injury, trafficking, gender-based violence (GBV), recruitment and use in armed conflict, sexual violence, drop out of school and early marriage, arbitrary arrest, and unlawful detention of adolescent.

Due to the expansion of the armed conflict after the military coup in February 2021, the people of Myanmar faced and they are still facing political, socioeconomic, covid19 pandemic, human rights violations, and humanitarian crisis. This multi-dimensional humanitarian crisis is affecting women and children as they are the most vulnerable to this economic and protection crisis.

The Child Protection AoR is necessary to coordinate life-saving child protection support and services at the levels of children, families, communities, and society utilizing the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action 2019. In 2021, following the military coup in Myanmar, the cluster system was activated. The cluster system globally established in 2005 by Secretary General with a view to ensure greater predictability, accountability, and partnership in the international humanitarian response. The Protection Cluster is the umbrella cluster under which the CP AoR falls (in addition to other AoRs) with a view to coordinating the child protection activities in a humanitarian context. In Myanmar, the CP AoR is a forum whereby all child protection activities are coordinated to ensure humanitarian child protection prevention and response activities reach as many children in need as possible, to avoid duplication and to strengthen capacities of child protection actors in Myanmar to provide quality services for children. The CP AoR at national level has the overall responsibility to support and coordinate with the subnational CP AoRs in Myanmar¹. Child Protection actors operating on humanitarian response in Myanmar must coordinate with CP AoR.

With the intensifying conflict and a significant increase in population displacement throughout the course of 2022, the Child Protection AoR is necessary to widen access to quality integrated support services especially for children and adolescents in contested communities, tailored to their needs (age, gender, disabilities and other diversities as well as location), with special focus on survivors of grave violations, child abuse and exploitation, conflict-affected children, and unaccompanied and separated children.

Purpose and focus

Functioning as part of and under the umbrella of the Protection Cluster, the Child Protection AoR is a coordinating body of child protection actors with the objective to strengthen and harmonize emergency child protection (CP) interventions for children in Myanmar. This coordination mechanism works to support, advise, and advocate for timely and standardized prevention and response activities in children's best interests, and to promote actions that place children at the center of the response. Through this coordination forum the child protection actors can:

- Share information

¹ Subnational TORs available upon request

- Coordinate interventions, avoid duplication and ensure timely response
- Develop a harmonized approach and tools, and seek consensus on issues
- Create partnerships and linkages for better prioritization of available resources
- Commit to and endorse minimum standards for child protection interventions
- Monitor progress and report on activities and needs
- Identify child protection concerns and contribute to advocacy initiatives which address them
- Keep up to date and provide support to the sub-national CP AoR
- Coordinate capacity building efforts

Definition of Child Protection

Building on global standards for child protection, including the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, the Child Protection AoR adopts the following definition of Child Protection: **Preventing and responding to abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation.** This includes protecting and advocating against all forms of discrimination; ensuring immediate access to appropriate services; and ensuring durable solutions in the child’s best interests”.

Child protection in emergencies includes specific activities by child protection actors, whether national or community-based and/or by humanitarian staff supporting local capacities. This includes activities to address violence, exploitation, neglect, and abuse, including issues such as sexual exploitation, family separation, trafficking, child recruitment, child labor, danger and injuries, physical violence, and harmful traditional practices, such as early marriage.

Guiding Principles and Approaches

A child protection systems approach is based on the socioeconomic model which includes actions for duty bearers at all levels – the child, family, community, and, where possible, society and recognizes that building or strengthening the national and community-level child protection systems is integral to a holistic child protection response. The work of the Child Protection AoR is guided by the Principles of Partnership¹ and Humanitarian Principles² with emphasis on:

- National responsibility and ownership
- Localization
- Urgency
- Non-Discrimination
- Do no Harm
- Partnership
- Family and community-based approach
- Child Participation
- Best Interest of the Child
- Promote the centrality of protection in all humanitarian action

¹ <https://icvanetwork.org/system/files/versions/Principles%20of%20Partnership%20English.pdf>

² https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/OOM-humanitarianprinciples_eng_June12.pdf



- Age, Gender, and Diversity
- Accountability to affected populations

Structure of the CP AoR at national level in Myanmar

Child Protection is an AoR with a dedicated coordinator and led by UNICEF and a co-coordinator from Danish Refugee Council, Myanmar

The CP AoR works under the umbrella of the Protection Sector led by UNHCR. The CP AoR is working in collaboration with the protection sector for a comprehensive protection response, based on a sound and evidence-based programming. The CP AoR will also work closely with the GBV AoR, the Mine Action AoR, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group, the Education Sector and any others as necessary to ensure integrated prevention and response services for children.

The two CP AoR coordinators, based on the recommendations from the AoR members, may call and organize special Task Forces or Working Groups to handle specific technical issues or tackle child protection issues in a specific area or geographic location.

The Child Protection AoR at national level works closely with sub-national CP AoRs in Myanmar to ensure coordination, avoid duplication, and strengthen capacity of child protection at sub-national level¹

Key Functions of the CP AoR

1. To support a quality response and service delivery by:

- Providing a platform that ensures service delivery is driven by the HRP and strategic priorities.
- Developing mechanisms to eliminate duplication of service delivery and ensure maximum reach to people in need.

2. To inform strategic decision-making by:

- Preparing needs assessments and analysis of gaps across other sectors (mainstreaming) and within the AoR, using information management tools to inform the setting of priorities.
- Identifying and finding solutions for gaps, obstacles, duplication, and cross-cutting issues.
- Formulating priorities on the basis of analysis.

3. To plan and implement a CP AoR strategy², including funding aspects, by:

- Developing a yearly operational plan, objectives and indicators that directly support the realization of the overall response's strategic objectives.
- Clarifying funding needs and helping to set priorities.

¹ For specific locations whereby a CP AOR is established at sub-national level, please reach out to the national CP AoR coordinators.

² In 2023 strategy outlined in 2023

- Exploring sources of funding, relationship management with donors, and provide information to child protection partners about funding opportunities, requirements, and processes.

4. To monitor and report on performance by:

- Monitoring and reporting on activities and needs through the 5Ws.
- Report against the achievement of CP actors at national level, in line with HRP.
- Producing information management products (including but not limited to the 5Ws) which provide insight to gaps, duplications, needs, and activities undertaken by CP AoR partners.
- Development of an interactive dashboard of gaps, activities, funding status and needs.
- Measuring progress against the CP AoR strategy¹ and agreed results.
- Recommending corrective action where necessary.

5. To build the capacity of CP AoR members and partners by:

- Promoting, applying, and adhering to national and international standards and guidelines both across other clusters (mainstreaming) and within the AoR.
- Developing and implementing a capacity building strategy.
- Analyzing and addressing anticipated risks, together with members.

6. To support advocacy by:

- Carrying out advocacy on behalf of the AoR, its members and the affected population.
- Developing advocacy messages in coordination with other sectors for strategic action.

Membership and responsibilities

Members of the Child Protection AoR includes UN agencies, and local and international NGOs, CBOs and volunteer groups who are directly engaged in child protection programme delivery. The AoR is open to constructive inputs, suggestions, and feedback from non-child protection actors. Membership will be defined as “members” or “observers” with differing responsibilities.

The membership of the CP AoR at national level shall include the Protection sector and GBV AoR, UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations, who meet the following criteria:

1. Operational relevance in child protection.
2. Technical expertise.
3. Demonstrated capacity to contribute strategically and to provide practical support.
4. Commitment to contribute consistently.

The ICRC and donors will have a standing invitation to attend the CP AoR meetings in an observer capacity if they wish so.

¹ For 2023 the strategy is that within the HRP

The CP AoR coordinators will review membership on a regular basis (at least twice a year) and if appropriate make recommendations to the members about inviting other interested parties to participate in meetings, either as members or observers.

Responsibilities of Child Protection AoR members include:

- Regularly attending meetings and share information about activities, trends in violence against girls and boys, and challenges encountered in the field.
- Actively participating in the activities of the CP AoR, including leading and or participating in specific activities of the coordination group and development of common tools and approaches.
- Designating focal points for meeting attendance and managing communication from and to the group (e.g. data request).
- Provide monthly updates based on the 5Ws with additional reports requested on an as-needed basis
- Coordinating planning and assessments with all other actors to avoid duplication and address gaps, including geographical and programmatic gaps.
- Endorse and use the humanitarian principles as well as interagency standards, guidelines, and tools, and in particular the Child Protection Minimum Standards.
- Keep abreast of subnational priorities and raising them to the national and subnational AoR coordinators.

Leadership and responsibilities

The Child Protection AoR is under the leadership of UNICEF.

The Child Protection AoR is chaired by UNICEF in coordination with and Danish Refugee Council, Myanmar.

The coordinating agencies are responsible for:

- Ensure the smooth running of the Child Protection AoR and support coordination efforts in the field and facilitate endorsement of Child Protection AoR strategies and activities.
- Act upon existing service gaps for a greater coverage of the response.
- Ensure close collaboration with the sub-national CP AoRs and provide support as needed¹
- Promote close and effective collaboration with members and leadership of other clusters by encouraging participation, convening regular meetings, promoting coordination and information sharing among key actors.

Reporting and representation

- The Protection Cluster is the primary body for development and coordination of the protection strategy. The Child Protection AoR coordinators represent the AoR in Protection Cluster meetings, the Protection Cluster SAG meetings, collaborates on all HPC processes in particular submission of regular reports as required to fulfil response monitoring obligations and inputs into protection advocacy.

¹ CP AoR at subnational level have separate and different terms of reference due to the nuances of the context.



- The Child Protection AoR emphasizes collaboration on protection analysis, reports issues of concern to the Protection Cluster, keeping the AoR members and other coordination bodies such as the ICCG and OCHA informed.
- The Child Protection AoR coordinators represent the AoR in ICCG meetings, advocacy, and other relevant processes.

Meeting schedule

The Child Protection AoR meets on a monthly basis, on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm to 4pm until a new meeting frequency will be decided by the members. The AoR Coordinators may call for ad hoc meeting as an emergency measure and when the need arises.

The meeting agendas and minutes will be circulated by the AoR coordinators, or the agency called upon to chair a meeting.

Revisions

The TOR of the National Child Protection AoR will be reviewed every six months based on the recommendation of the CP AoR coordinator or any of the members.