



ANTICIPATORY ACTION & CHILD PROTECTION

Acting Early to Better Protect
Children in Emergencies

ISSUE BRIEF

ifrc.org

This Issue Brief was made possible thanks to technical support from



© International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva, 2021

Any part of this publication may be cited, copied, translated into other languages or adapted to meet local needs without prior permission from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, provided that the source is clearly stated.

All photos used in this study are copyright of the IFRC unless otherwise indicated.

Cover photo: Mother and child in Tigray, Ethiopia

Authors: Audrey Oettli and Gurvinder Singh

Design by: Fiona Cheng

Contact us

Requests for commercial reproduction should be directed to the IFRC Secretariat:

Address: Chemin des Crêts 17 Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland

Postal address: P.O. Box 303, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland

T +41 (0)22 730 42 22 | **F** +41 (0)22 730 42 00 | **E** secretariat@ifrc.org | **W** ifrc.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Key Takeaways	4
Purpose	5
Introduction	6
Child Protection	7
Anticipatory Action	9
Anticipatory Action and Child Protection – Unlocking the Potential to Reduce Protection Risk in Emergencies	10
Inclusion of Child Protection in Anticipatory Action	11
Considerations for Early Action	12
Summary Actions to Support the Inclusion of Child Protection into Anticipatory Action	14
APPENDIX: Definitions	16

Key Takeaways

1. The linkages between child protection and anticipatory action are presently not occurring. There is very little documented on the linkages and very few practical examples.
2. In emergencies children represent a high portion of the population affected, their voices are mostly unheard, and they have high risks to violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. There is a lack of investment and services available to protect children in emergencies. Climate related emergencies will intensify these risks to children.
3. Some populations of children such as girls, children connected to the streets, children in labour, children with disabilities, and children married or at risk of being married, have particular protection risks in emergencies that need to be prioritized.
4. Once emergencies are projected to occur, deliberate action is needed to ensure that children's needs, especially those at most risk of harm, are recognized and early local action is taken through coordinated approaches.
5. There are practical actions that can be taken by local stakeholders to include child protection within anticipatory action. These include inclusion of child protection within anticipatory triggers and indicators, child participation in decisions that affect them, local coordination between agencies and government from the anticipatory stage through to recovery stage, understanding local laws, ensuring access to helping services, advocacy with communities and authorities, having internal organizational protection systems, and evaluating responses with children's leadership.



Purpose

This issue brief addresses the opportunities to support the mainstreaming of child protection into anticipatory humanitarian action. It includes recommendations to stakeholders on how anticipatory humanitarian action can reduce risks to violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation against children.



Introduction

Children face increased risks of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, both as direct and indirect consequences of emergencies.¹ With increasing stress or the collapse of protection systems and services, children can face many risks in emergencies. Pre-existing protection concerns are typically exacerbated, while new ones are likely to appear, creating both short-term and long-lasting life-threatening risks.

Key Data

An estimated 60 million children needed life-saving assistance in 2020.²

In disasters children represent the majority of people affected.³

Almost every child on earth is exposed to at least 1 major climate and environmental hazard, shock and stress. 2.2 billion children are exposed to at least 2 overlapping climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses. 1.7 billion children are exposed to at least 3 overlapping climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses. 850 million children are exposed to at least 4 overlapping climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses.⁴

Designed with, and for, child protection practitioners and people working in impact-based forecasting, early warning and early action, the compiled information and recommendations in this issue brief will be useful for everyone involved in the development and implementation of anticipatory humanitarian action. This issue brief outlines the existing and potential links between anticipatory action and child protection, and proposes practical recommendations on how anticipatory action approaches such as Forecast based Financing can be adapted to further reduce the humanitarian impacts of emergencies on child protection.



1 The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. (2019). *Unprotected: Crisis in Humanitarian Funding for Child Protection*. <https://alliancecpha.org/en/child-protection-online-library/unprotected-crisis-humanitarian-funding-child-protection>

2 UNICEF. (2020). *Humanitarian Action for Children 2020. HAC 2020 Overview_Embargoed until 0600 CET 4 Dec 2019.pdf* (unicef.ca)

3 United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2011). *UNISDR Says the Young are the Largest Group Affected by Disasters*. <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/22742>

4 UNICEF. (2021). *The Climate Crisis is a Child's Crisis. Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index*. [UNICEF_climate_crisis_child_rights_crisis-summary.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/2021/09/2021-09-14-unicef-climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis-summary)

Child Protection

Overview

Child protection is the prevention and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children in times of emergency caused by natural or manmade disasters, conflicts, or other crises. Effective child protection builds on existing capacities and strengthens preparedness before a crisis occurs.⁵

Although it can be a matter of life and death⁶, child protection is generally not provided adequate priority,⁷ is underfunded⁸, and mostly responsive.⁹

Minimum Standards for Child Protection In Humanitarian Action

As described in the Minimum Standards for Child Protection Humanitarian Action¹⁰, the range of protection risks faced by children in humanitarian settings include:

- Dangers and injuries;
- Physical and emotional maltreatment;
- Sexual and gender-based violence;
- Mental health and psychosocial distress;
- Children associated with armed forces or armed groups;
- Child labour; and
- Unaccompanied and separated children

Gender factors

There is increasing evidence that, compared to boys, girls are at a higher risk of experiencing many secondary or indirect impacts that arise from disasters,¹¹ including violence, the pressure to marry as children, and a loss or reduction in education opportunities. This is due to an intersectionality of power dynamics. As a result, girls suffer a “double disaster”. These secondary impacts may be the real “disaster” for girls who have to struggle with the aftermath of the disaster and also the enhanced risks to their safety. The risks are due to social norms that lead to girls having less access to, or control over, assets including the resources necessary to cope with disasters. Such assets include information, education, health, and wealth. It is the inequities in the everyday, and not just in times of disaster, that increase risk and reduce life chances for girls.¹²

5 The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. (2019). *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*. <https://alliancecpa.org/en/cpms>

6 Child Protection Working Group. (2015). *A Matter of Life and Death: Child Protection Programming's Essential Role in Ensuring Child Wellbeing and Survival during and after Emergencies*. <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/matter-life-and-death-child-protection-programmings-essential-role-ensuring-child-wellbeing>

7 The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Save The Children, Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2020). *Still Unprotected, Humanitarian Funding for Child Protection*. <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/children/5fb3d1f54/still-unprotected-humanitarian-funding-child-protection-2020.html>

8 The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Save The Children, Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2020). *Still Unprotected, Humanitarian Funding for Child Protection*. <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/children/5fb3d1f54/still-unprotected-humanitarian-funding-child-protection-2020.html>

9 IFRC. (2020). *We Need To Do Better: Policy Brief on Enhancing Laws and Regulations to Protect Children in Disasters*. <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/We-Need-To-Do-Better-Final-En.pdf>

10 The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. (2019). *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*. <https://alliancecpa.org/en/cpms>

11 GFDRR. (2018). *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Disaster Recovery*. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/DRGS_gender_equality_WEB.pdf

12 IFRC. (2020). *We Need To Do Better: Policy Brief on Enhancing Laws and Regulations to Protect Children in Disasters*. <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/We-Need-To-Do-Better-Final-En.pdf>

Children with high protection risks

Among children, those most disadvantaged face the greatest protection risks, as emergencies threaten to overwhelm their fragile or limited coping capacity and further compound inequity.¹³ For example, children with disabilities (both physical and intellectual) are at heightened risk of exclusion, exploitation, and physical, psychological and sexual abuse during disasters.¹⁴

Similarly, protection barriers exist for children who are working, children who are out of school, homeless or children connected to the streets, children in conflict zones, migrating, displaced and refugee children, Indigenous children, and children who identify as LGBTQI.¹⁵

Access to protection services

A key aspect of child protection in emergencies is ensuring children have access to protection services. However, when asked, children highlight that they do not feel they have adequate information about where to go for help around protection issues in emergencies, do not know how to access support services, and are not confident that the adults in their lives will provide competent protection support.¹⁶

Laws to protect children in emergencies

Protection requirements are primarily the responsibility of governments. To this end, several states have included specific provisions on child protection regarding disasters in their laws.¹⁷ In a few cases governments have developed stand-alone laws or regulations focused exclusively on child protection in disasters. In other cases, lawmakers have integrated attention to child protection into more general disaster laws. Both approaches have good potential for ensuring that child protection will receive priority attention in disaster risk management. However, these states remain in the minority. Most countries currently seem to rely on constitutional provisions and other sectoral laws. However, it is often the case that the particularities of child protection in disaster settings are not explicitly addressed in any law.¹⁸

Internal safeguarding

Not only do governments need to have in place protection systems, but all agencies that interact with children need to have in place safeguarding mechanisms. These mechanisms include policies and procedures to ensure that their own personnel do not pose a risk of violence, abuse, neglect, or exploitation against the children they interact with.

13 UNICEF. (2019). *Are Climate Change Policies Child-Sensitive? A Guide for Action: Summary*.

14 IFRC. (2019). *Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response: Multi-Country Synthesis Report*.

15 ECPAT International. (2017). *Regional Overview: Sexual Exploitation of Children in Southeast Asia*.
https://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Regional-Overview_Southeast-Asia.pdf

16 IFRC. (2021). *We Need to Do Better: Climate Related Disasters, Child Protection, and Local Action*.

17 IFRC. (2020). *We Need To Do Better: Policy Brief on Enhancing Laws and Regulations to Protect Children in Disasters*.
<https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/We-Need-To-Do-Better-Final-En.pdf>

18 IFRC. (2020). *We Need To Do Better: Policy Brief on Enhancing Laws and Regulations to Protect Children in Disasters*.
<https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/We-Need-To-Do-Better-Final-En.pdf>

Anticipatory Action

Overview

Anticipatory action consists of actions taken ahead of a crisis to reduce or mitigate the impact of the shock faster, and more effectively, by acting on the basis of risks rather than needs. It complements preparedness actions taken for unknown threats likely to manifest in the future¹⁹, by targeting populations most at risk of being impacted by the determined shock.²⁰ It is also generally coordinated with government contingency plans and early warning systems.²¹

Defined differently by different actors, anticipatory action operates under disparate criteria, timelines, and decision-making processes.²² Yet, it usually works by using available data and evidence to trigger the release of financial resources for interventions that have been collectively and collaboratively identified and agreed in advance²³ by humanitarian, development, and scientific partners.

Types of disasters

Until now, anticipatory action has mostly been developed for sudden-onset disasters, almost exclusively for hydro-meteorological hazards²⁴, such as floods and tropical cyclones. However, new approaches are being considered for an increasing number of hazards, including slow-onset and geophysical hazards²⁵, heat waves, and for situations linked to or induced by conflict.²⁶

Initiatives

Initiatives that use forecasts to trigger and deliver early action have either provided support directly to communities (often in coordination with local governments), or have worked with national governments and partners to strengthen the development and delivery of anticipatory actions through State institutions.²⁷

19 ODI. (2019). *Anticipatory Humanitarian Action: What Role for the CERF? Moving from Rapid Response to Early Action*. <https://www.alnap.org/system/files/content/resource/files/main/12643.pdf>

20 CERF. (2020). *Anticipatory Action Update, CERF Advisory Group Meeting, 1 June 2020, Draft Framework for the Somalia Anticipatory Action Plan*. <https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/Anticipatory%20Action%20Update.pdf>

21 ODI. (2018). *Forecasting Hazards, Averting Disasters: Implementing Forecast-based Early Action at Scale*. <https://odi.org/en/publications/forecasting-hazards-averting-disasters-implementing-forecast-based-early-action-at-scale>

22 Centre for Disaster Protection, Oxford. (2019). *Getting Ahead of Crises: A Thesaurus for Anticipatory Humanitarian Action*. https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/Thesaurus_single%20column_WORKING_DRAFT.pdf

23 CERF. (2020). *Anticipatory Action Update, CERF Advisory Group Meeting, 1 June 2020, Draft Framework for the Somalia Anticipatory Action Plan*. <https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/Anticipatory%20Action%20Update.pdf>

24 Wagner M., & Jaime C. (2020). *An Agenda for Expanding Forecast-Based Action to Situations of Conflict, Working Paper*. <https://www.gppi.net/2020/09/22/an-agenda-for-expanding-forecast-based-action-to-situations-of-conflict>

25 IFRC. (2020). *Come Heat or High Water: Tackling the Humanitarian Impacts of the Climate Crisis Together, World Disasters Report 2020*. <https://redcross.eu/uploads/files/Latest%20News/World%20Disasters%20Report%202020/World%20Disasters%20Report%202020.pdf>

26 Wagner M., & Jaime C. (2020). *An Agenda for Expanding Forecast-Based Action to Situations of Conflict, Working Paper*. <https://www.gppi.net/2020/09/22/an-agenda-for-expanding-forecast-based-action-to-situations-of-conflict>

27 ODI. (2018). *Forecasting Hazards, Averting Disasters: Implementing Forecast-based Early Action at Scale*. <https://odi.org/en/publications/forecasting-hazards-averting-disasters-implementing-forecast-based-early-action-at-scale>

Anticipatory Action and Child Protection – Unlocking the Potential to Reduce Protection Risks in Emergencies

Anticipatory action is an important approach as development and humanitarian actors can undertake new kinds of preparedness activities, taking advantage of substantial cost and time savings by acting in advance of emergencies.²⁸ Growing evidence indicates significant potential in these approaches.²⁹

Currently, over 60 countries are now implementing anticipatory approaches,³⁰ and there is growing interest in moving from small-scale pilots to anticipatory action at scale.³¹ Scaling up means dedicating more funding so that more people can receive assistance ahead of predictable shocks, expanding the geographic coverage and types of shocks that can be anticipated, as well as the ability and capacity of the system to respond collectively in a coordinated manner.³² The range of outcomes could also be broadened beyond food security and nutrition.³³

Scaling up is also an opportunity to do better by including child protection in the core of anticipatory action. However until now, protection in general and child protection specifically have rarely been featured in early action initiatives.³⁴



Key Data

Only 1 % of the Start Fund anticipatory alerts between October 2016 and November 2017 have been spent on protection.³⁵

28 ODI. (2019). *Anticipatory Humanitarian Action: What Role for the CERF? Moving from Rapid Response to Early Action*. <https://www.alnap.org/system/files/content/resource/files/main/12643.pdf>

29 Weingartner, L., Pforr, T., & Wilkinson, E. (2020). *The Evidence Base on Anticipatory Action*. <https://www.wfp.org/publications/evidence-base-anticipatory-action>.

30 IFRC. (2020). *Come Heat or High Water: Tackling the Humanitarian Impacts of the Climate Crisis Together, World Disasters Report 2020*. <https://redcross.eu/uploads/files/Latest%20News/World%20Disasters%20Report%202020/World%20Disasters%20Report%202020.pdf>

31 Weingartner, L., & Wilkinson, E. (2019). *Anticipatory Crisis Financing and Action: Concepts, Initiatives, and Evidence*. https://www.disasterprotection.org/s/Evidence_review_Anticipatory_Crisis_Financing_Action.pdf

32 IFRC. (2020). *Come Heat or High Water: Tackling the Humanitarian Impacts of the Climate Crisis Together, World Disasters Report 2020*. <https://redcross.eu/uploads/files/Latest%20News/World%20Disasters%20Report%202020/World%20Disasters%20Report%202020.pdf>

33 Feinstein International Center, Tufts University; Nairobi. (2020). *Towards Anticipatory Information Systems and Action: Notes on Early Warning and Early Action in East Africa*. <https://fic.tufts.edu/publication-item/towards-anticipatory-information-systems-and-action/>

34 ODI. (2019). *Anticipatory Humanitarian Action: What Role for the CERF? Moving from Rapid Response to Early Action*. <https://www.alnap.org/system/files/content/resource/files/main/12643.pdf>

35 Start Fund. (2017). *Crisis Anticipation Window, Annual Report 2017*. <https://start-network.app.box.com/s/5dr4zh0ng0sze2pdlvjfya4b594f1qf>

Inclusion of Child Protection in Anticipatory Action

To date, anticipatory actions have ranged from bolstering organizational capacities and programme activity to delivering food and non-food relief, cash transfers, and scaling up social protection mechanisms.³⁶ Overall, these actions have contributed to ensuring the continuity of essential services, reducing the vulnerability of children, families, and communities, and enabling them to avoid resorting to negative coping mechanisms.³⁷ While all of these have an incidental protective effect there is no direct protection related effects. Evidence from pilot projects has further highlighted that the interventions have enabled people to do more to prepare themselves ahead of the anticipated shock and presented psychological benefits.³⁸

For the most part, gender differences and other diversity differences such as age or disability have rarely been incorporated into forecasting or analyzing shocks.³⁹

Sample Action In Peru

In Peru, as part of its anticipatory action strategy the Red Cross has distributed winter clothing (jackets, gloves and socks) to children in order to prevent infant mortality during extreme cold waves and snowfall.⁴⁰

Some elements of child protection have been embedded in education interventions, through the education continuity plans,⁴¹ the teaching of protection and coping mechanisms to school children and education personnel,⁴² or the identification of vulnerable children and provision of psychosocial support in child friendly spaces.⁴³

Only recently does child protection seem to have been included as a stand-alone consideration within any anticipatory frameworks. This occurred in two complementary manners, namely through its mainstreaming and integration into early actions. In the first case, child protection and gender-based violence have been mainstreamed across all sectoral interventions via the provision of training and technical guidance to staff.^{44,45} Specific child protection strategies have further been developed to mitigate drought-related risks with the setting up of child protection committees,⁴⁶ the training of community structures on how to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation and the implementation of regional awareness-raising campaigns to improve reporting and the provision of support.⁴⁷

36 ODI. (2018). *Forecasting Hazards, Averting Disasters: Implementing Forecast-based Early Action at Scale*. <https://odi.org/en/publications/forecasting-hazards-averting-disasters-implementing-forecast-based-early-action-at-scale>

37 Save the Children. (2019). *Forecast-based Action at Save the Children, Briefing Note*. https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/18977/pdf/forecast-based_action_at_save_the_children.pdf.

38 ODI. (2019). *Scaling up Early Action: Lessons, Challenges and Future Potential in Bangladesh*. <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/12641.pdf>

39 Feinstein International Center, Tufts University; Nairobi. (2020). *Towards Anticipatory Information Systems and Action: Notes on Early Warning and Early Action in East Africa*. <https://fic.tufts.edu/publication-item/towards-anticipatory-information-systems-and-action/>

40 IFRC. (2019). *Peru Extreme Cold and Snowfall: Early Action Protocol Summary*. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/EAP2018PE01.Peru Extreme Cold and Snowfall.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/EAP2018PE01.Peru%20Extreme%20Cold%20and%20Snowfall.pdf)

41 CERF. (2020). *CERF-funded Project, Ethiopia, Anticipatory Action to Mitigate the Negative Effects of Drought Shocks on the Education of Vulnerable Populations (20-RR-CEF-068)*. <https://cerf.un.org/what-we-do/allocation/2020/summary/20-RR-ETH-46461/20-RR-CEF-068>

42 The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). (2018). *Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures for Early Action to El Niño/La Niña Episodes*. <https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/ia-enso-sops.pdf>

43 Start Fund. (2017). *Crisis Anticipation Window, Annual Report 2017*. <https://start-network.app.box.com/s/5dr4zh0ng0sze2pdlvjfya4b594f1qf>

44 CERF. (2021). *CERF-funded Project, Ethiopia, Mainstreaming Protection, Child protection and GBV Across the Anticipatory Action Pilot (21-RR-HCR-004)*. <https://cerf.un.org/what-we-do/allocation/2021/summary/20-RR-ETH-46461/21-RR-HCR-004>

45 CERF. (2020). *CERF-funded Project, Ethiopia, Mainstreaming Protection, Child Protection and GBV Across the Anticipatory Action Pilot (20-RR-FPA-043)*. <https://cerf.un.org/what-we-do/allocation/2020/summary/20-RR-ETH-46461/20-RR-FPA-043>

46 CERF. (2021). *CERF-funded Project, Somalia, Provision of Safe Water, Critical Nutrition Services, Child Protection Support, and Immunization and Emergency Health Care in Drought-affected Districts. (21-RR-CEF-012)*. <https://cerf.un.org/what-we-do/allocation/2021/summary/21-RR-SOM-47081/21-RR-CEF-012>

47 CERF. (2020). *CERF-funded Project, Ethiopia, Anticipatory Action to Prevent Drought-related Child Protection Risks (21-RR-CEF-006)*. <https://cerf.un.org/what-we-do/allocation/2020/summary/20-RR-ETH-46461/21-RR-CEF-006>

Considerations for Early Action

Prevention and mitigation

In practice, some prevention or mitigation early actions can resemble emergency response activities or shock-responsive social safety nets, but are delivered earlier, with the aim of allowing the population to take measures to protect themselves and their belongings, reducing the need for people to rely on harmful coping strategies later on.⁴⁸

Prevention and Mitigation Early Actions

Key elements of prevention and mitigation early actions should:

- contribute to a greater sense of dignity and empowerment for children by ensuring their participation in decisions that affect them;
- have in place community feedback mechanisms that are child friendly and accessible to children of diverse ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds;
- respond to basic needs that, if not addressed, could place children at risk and increase households' reliance on harmful coping strategies that can place children at risk of violence, abuse or exploitation;
- facilitate children's access to services to cover one-off or specific and immediate needs, or their access to other interventions that form part of the child protection response; and
- improve family dynamics and well-being by alleviating financial pressure, reducing family tension and increasing choice and participation for adults, thereby positively influencing the household environment for children.

It is important to understand whether and how early actions in a particular setting could contribute to attaining child protection. For example, child protection outcomes can be achieved in an indirect way,⁴⁹ for instance by ensuring that children are, and remain, enrolled and attend school regularly. Clarifying how interventions could contribute to child protection and establishing a framework to analyse the causal linkages between the considered interventions and child protection risks and drivers is therefore necessary.

Child participation

In order to understand how best to contribute to child protection in anticipatory action it is critical to hear directly from children from the earliest stages. Ensuring the meaningful participation of children throughout the anticipatory action is key and an essential right of all children. Children are the best placed to define their best interests, identify their own solutions, and ensure that warnings and interventions are child-friendly and inclusive.

⁴⁸ Wilkinson, E., Weingärtner, L., Choularton, R., Bailey, M., Todd, M., Kniveton, D., & Cabot Venton, C. (2018). *Forecasting Hazards, Averting Disasters: Implementing Forecast-based Early Action at Scale*. <https://odi.org/en/publications/forecasting-hazards-averting-disasters-implementing-forecast-based-early-action-at-scale>

⁴⁹ Save the Children. (2017). *Child Outcomes of Cash Transfer Programming: What Works and What Doesn't for Children in Humanitarian and Development Contexts*. https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/12524/pdf/research_brief_pr6_singles.pdf



Child Participation: Sample Tool

For specific approaches to child participation in emergencies, see **Children as Partners in Child Protection in COVID-19** developed by the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, CPC Learning Network, IFRC, IICRD, and UNICEF.



Linking with other sectors

With resources often limited and considering child protections’ cross-cutting nature, it can be useful to jointly address child protection with other sectors, as much as possible. For example, there are a series of practical actions that can be taken together between education and child protection actors:

- Protect education infrastructure, identify alternative locations for temporary schools to limit the use of schools as temporary shelters, and ensure alternative arrangements are made or the situation is mitigated to allow classes to resume where schools are a core evacuation area for the local community;
- Assess transport routes to and from the school facilities are safe, communicate safe routes and times;
- Advocate for education continuity plans and support education awareness campaigns on school retention, accessibility and safety at community and local levels;
- Scale up the teaching of protection and coping mechanisms to school children and education personnel; and
- Provide psychosocial support in temporary safe spaces for children.

Another sector where opportunities can be explored include the Health sector. Sample actions can include:

- Preposition hygiene, dignity, health, safe birth and rape management kits;
- Include child protection within mental health and psychosocial programming; and
- Scale up community-based surveillance systems.

Sample Action in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, UNHCR has worked with UN partners to train staff and to mainstream child protection and prevention of gender-based violence across all sectoral interventions of its anticipatory action framework.⁵⁰

50 UN CERF. (2021). *Ethiopia. Allocation project summary* | CERF (un.org).

Summary Actions to Support the Inclusion of Child Protection into Anticipatory Action

Child protection outcomes⁵¹ can be included at various steps of the development of anticipatory action, for instance, within each component of the anticipatory action framework. For this, it is necessary to determine the actions that are impactful, feasible, and operationally ready to be implemented, and then identify the best forecast and triggers.⁵² Close collaboration and knowledge-sharing among sectors that often work separately is key in this process. Coordination between stakeholders operating at different scales should ensure that the right combination of actions is taken on time to minimize disaster impacts and reduce risks over the longer term.⁵³

Ten key actions to include child protection as part of anticipatory action:

- 1. Develop early actions that include child protection and identify relevant indicators in the design and development of anticipatory action triggers.** For instance, indicators related to monitoring early signs of deterioration such as the disruptions in service provision,⁵⁴ increases in children dropping out of school,⁵⁵ children moving to urban centres alone, or engaged in labour or increases in child marriage, are relevant to indicate negative coping strategies⁵⁶ in slow onset crises and initiate support for families and communities.
- 2. Contextualize and translate early warnings into expected risks for children.**⁵⁷ This requires understanding how hazards interact with children's vulnerabilities and exposure to predict likely impacts.⁵⁸ Child-centered vulnerability and capacity analysis need be carried out to help in the prioritization of geographical areas and children most at risk. Impact information can subsequently be used to determine appropriate early actions to be taken in the specific areas⁵⁹ and for the selection of target groups.⁶⁰
- 3. Ensure the meaningful participation of children** of diverse ages, genders, abilities, ethnic backgrounds, and communities to identify top protection priorities and barriers, and to develop and make accessible child friendly messages.
- 4. Identify categories of children at high risk of protection needs** through consultations with children and key local stakeholders, reviewing existing data, and learning from past emergencies. Prioritize action for these children.

51 Child protection outcomes are achieved when the risk to the affected child is reduced as a result of an intervention or activity.

52 CERF. *Anticipatory Action Update*, CERF Advisory Group Meeting, 1 June 2020. [https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/Anticipatory Action Update.pdf](https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/Anticipatory%20Action%20Update.pdf)

53 Wilkinson, E., Weingärtner, L., Choularton, R., Bailey, M., Todd, M., Kniveton, D., & Cabot Venton, C. (2018). *Forecasting Hazards, Averting Disasters: Implementing Forecast-based Early Action at Scale*. <https://odi.org/en/publications/forecasting-hazards-averting-disasters-implementing-forecast-based-early-action-at-scale>

54 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). (2020). *Humanitarian Action 2021 Overview*. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/PAGES-UNFPA_HAO2021_Report_Updated_6_Dec.pdf

55 Save the Children. (2019). *Forecast-based Action at Save the Children, Briefing Note*. https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/18977/pdf/forecast-based_action_at_save_the_children.pdf

56 World Bank. (2019). *The Chronology of a Disaster: A Review and Assessment of the Value of Acting Early on Household Welfare*. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/31721>

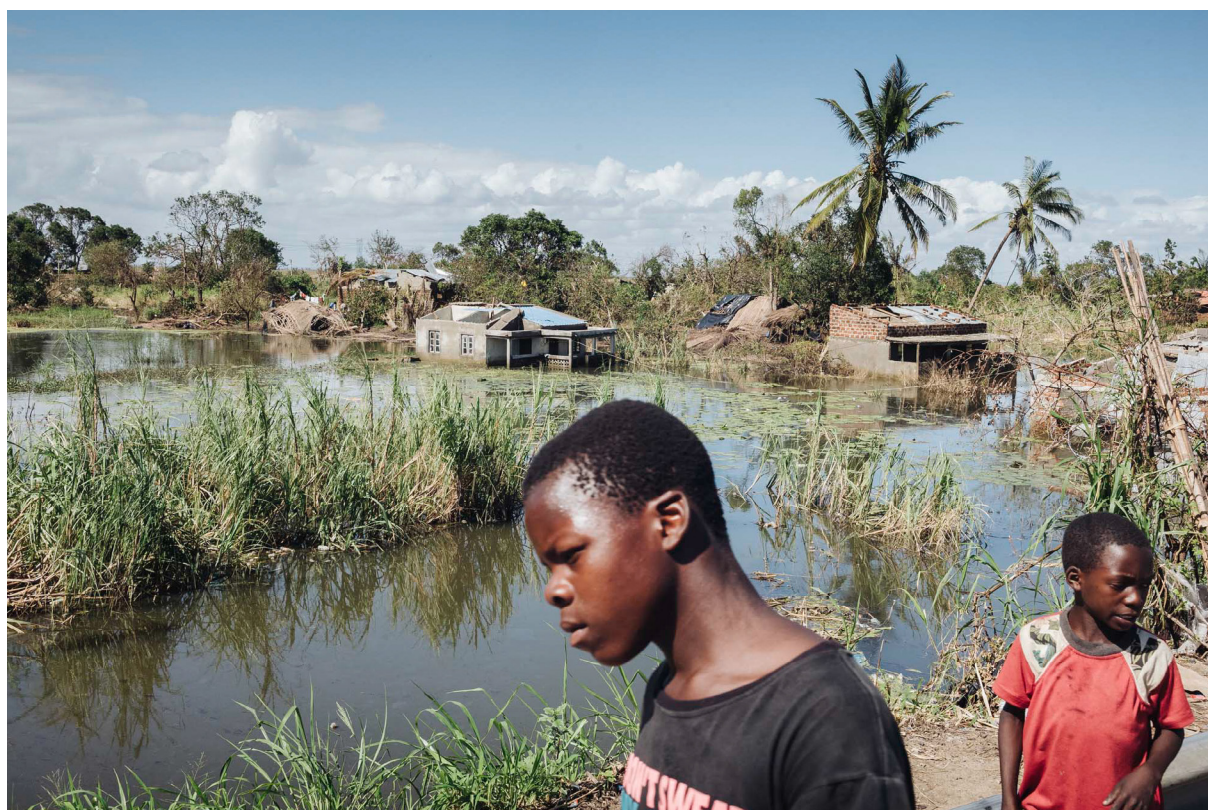
57 ODI. (2019). *Scaling up Early Action: Lessons, Challenges and Future Potential in Bangladesh*. <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/12641.pdf>

58 Oxley, M. (2019). *Putting People at the Centre of Early Action, A Start Network Position Paper*. <https://start-network.app.box.com/s/cf4o2y8twcoempqq4xsie0pigf3mxjyn>

59 Oxley, M. (2019). *Putting People at the Centre of Early Action, A Start Network Position Paper*. <https://start-network.app.box.com/s/cf4o2y8twcoempqq4xsie0pigf3mxjyn>

60 Targeting is the process that determines which individuals or households are eligible to receive assistance addressing their needs and supporting their capacities and rights. Children should automatically be considered in the selection of the target groups.

- 5. Facilitate local coordination and joint planning** between relevant government ministries, child protection and education practitioners, international and national NGOs, UN, and Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, as well as technical experts and scientists. Continue coordination and joint planning across all phases of an emergency response and into recovery.
- 6. Advocate for child protection with communities, authorities, and key local decision makers.** In particular, where appropriate, encourage local authorities to address child protection into their anticipatory planning and processes. In addition, communicate widely in local communities about child protection risks and local support services.
- 7. Build practical linkages between child protection and other sectors as much as possible.** For instance, prioritize ways for child protection and education and health sectors to reinforce one another in early action.
- 8. Review local and national child protection laws, policies and regulations** to understand legal obligations and in order to ensure anticipatory actions align with and support legal obligations.
- 9. Ensure child safeguarding mechanisms are in place** among agencies interacting with children. Child safeguarding mechanisms can include screening all personnel who interact with children; providing briefings; having in place internal organizational reporting lines; making widely available referral pathways for child protection, sexual and gender-based violence and mental health and psychosocial support; implementing child friendly community feedback mechanisms; and having in place protocols for support to survivors.
- 10. Evaluate the impact of anticipatory action on the protection of children.** In particular, develop specific indicators to measure impact. In addition, promote children's participation and leadership in the design and implementation of evaluations.



APPENDIX: Definitions

Anticipatory action

Anticipatory action refers to actions taken in anticipation of a crisis based on historical exposure or forecasted risks.⁶¹

Child

Child refers to a human being under the age of 18 years regardless of the applicable legal definition of the term in the relevant country.⁶²

Child participation

Child participation refers to the manifestation of the right of every child to express their view, to have that view given all due consideration, to influence decision-making and to achieve change. It is the informed and willing involvement of all children, including the most marginalized and those of different ages, genders and disabilities, in any matter concerning them.⁶³

Child protection

Child protection is the prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children.⁶⁴

Child protection outcomes

are achieved when the risk to the affected child is reduced as a result of an intervention or activity.

Child safeguarding

refers to the broad obligation on an organizations personnel, partners, suppliers, and contractors to ensure that the design and delivery of programmes and organisational programmes are in the best interests of the child, do not expose children to adverse impacts, including the risk of violence, abuse, exploitation, or neglect and that any concerns about children's safety within the communities where they work are appropriately reported and responded to.⁶⁵

Impact-based Forecasting (also called Impact-based warning services)

A forecast of the potential consequences of a hydrometeorological event, in terms of its effects on people, infrastructure, etc. These types of forecasts and warnings are designed to provide detailed information precisely on who or what is exposed and vulnerable to the particular hazard. For impact forecast and warning services, exposure is explicitly considered along with the hazard and vulnerability (WMO 2016). This type of service changes the paradigm of hazard forecasting (what the weather will BE) towards the integration of risk (what the weather will DO).⁶⁶

Preparedness

Activities and measures taken in advance of a crisis to ensure an effective response to the impact of hazards, including issuing timely and effective early warnings and the temporary evacuation of people and property from threatened locations.⁶⁷

61 The World Bank, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/famine-early-action-mechanism>

62 OHCHR. *Convention on the Rights of the Child*; and IFRC. (2021). *Child Safeguarding Policy. Child safeguarding – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ifrc.org)*

63 Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. (2019). Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. <https://alliancecpha.org/en/cpms>

64 Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. (2019). Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. <https://alliancecpha.org/en/cpms>

65 DFAT. (2017). *Child Protection Policy 2017*. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/pages/child-protection-policy>

66 IFRC. (2020). *Finance-based Forecasting Practitioners Manual: Glossary of Terms for Forecast-based Financing*. <https://manual.forecast-based-financing.org/en/chapter/glossary>

67 Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. (2019). Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. <https://alliancecpha.org/en/cpms>

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.



The vision of the IFRC is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.