



“The partial funding of child protection projects and the severe underfunding of the child protection sector negatively affect the quality or scale of child protection response”

Too Little Too Late, Child Protection Funding in Emergencies, CPWG, 2012

Centrality of Protection in both conflict and natural disasters emergencies

The Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) is working to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation of boys and girls living in situation of emergencies including conflict, civil unrest and natural disasters.

The CPWG is seeking to enhance predictable and effective programming, and to ensure that quality standards are upheld by actors addressing issues faced by children as per the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Global CPWG, 2013

Key Considerations

- ✓ Children witnessed and experienced high levels of violence, and many live in fear and describe feelings of sadness and lack of hope for the future;
- ✓ Specific needs of adolescent girls and boys have been overlooked in the current response;
- ✓ As the two emergencies in Kachin/Northern Shan and Rakhine States become protracted, displaced communities are increasingly vulnerable and families are often forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms leading to family separation, exploitation including sexual abuse and child labour, child marriage, risky forms of migration including trafficking, or use and recruitment by armed forces/ armed groups.
- ✓ Children are not a ‘homogenous’ group and are exposed to different risks depending on their age and sex. Humanitarian organizations should take this into consideration while developing new child protection programming.

Key components of CP programming to be urgently funded

Improve access of children to life-saving services including psychosocial support: Child friendly spaces (CFS) in both IDP camps and host communities are often the only safe spaces where children can access free and structured recreational and learning activities to restore a sense of normality and continuity in their life, and where children survivors or at high risk of violence can access case management services. Self-help mechanisms to reduce stress of affected population, and strengthen counselling expertise within communities should also be scaled-up.

“I do not feel free and I am fed up with having to live longer”
(12-year old boy in Rakhine)

Build assets and life-skills of adolescents: A priority of the CPWG is the roll-out of an inter-agency life-skills training package for adolescents. This aims at children between 12 and 18 years in order to strengthen their resilience and positive coping mechanisms through the provision of skills such as decision making and problem solving, critical and creative thinking, effective communication, self-awareness, ability to empathize and stress management.

At a Glance

242,000 IDPs
55% are children

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:

Rakhine, Kachin, Northern Shan and Kayah States

MAJOR RISKS FOR CHILDREN:

Psycho-social distress and long-term psychological effects ☞

Family separation & drop out of schools ☞

Radicalisation including recruitment into political mob or self-defence community-groups ☞

Recruitment and use by armed forces/groups ☞

Killing and maiming ☞

Gender-Based Violence including sexual violence ☞

Negative coping mechanisms (i.e. child marriage, trafficking, risky migration) ☞

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

87 Child Friendly Spaces reaching over 25,000 children ☑

Action Plan signed in June 2012 with Government to end recruitment and use of children by Tatmadaw ☑

34 Tatmadaw battalions monitored in 2013 ☑

272 children and young people released from Tatmadaw ☑

Prevent Grave Violations against Children and support community reintegration of children released from armed forces/groups: Dedicated and extensive human resources are required to assist the Tatmadaw in making the recruitment and use of children a thing of the past, and to formally engage with Non- State Armed Groups to prevent use of children as well as sexual violence and killing and maiming. Community support is an urgent priority for children to re-adapt to civilian life and cope with their traumatic experience.

Establish Community-based Child Protection Systems and link with Broader Government Interventions: The establishment of Community-Based Child Protection Groups composed of adults including community and religious leaders and other key figures in the community, and linking them to case management to the Department of Social Welfare is a first step towards sustainable systems building beyond the emergency. This also facilitates the dissemination of Disaster Risk Reduction and preparedness child protection practices to mitigate risks in case of sudden natural disasters.



Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance. CPWG members provide emergency assistance to victims of mines and unexploded ordnance, and support the work of the national MRE Working Group and the establishment of two State-level MRE WG in Kachin and Kayah. The results of a KAP survey conducted in 2013 will inform the development and dissemination of evidence-based IEC material.

Inter-agency Child Protection Coordination and Information Management: The CPWG is building a network of national and international child protection organizations and practitioners to disseminate minimum standards and document promising programme models. The CPWG also supports the expansion of the use of the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), a globally recognized inter-agency tool to improve case management and trend analysis

Funding Requirement

- Child Protection work is human resources intensive: *Funding is required to ensure that enough dedicated and trained CP social workers and case managers are deployed;*
- Access constraints to remote and rural areas and dispersed displaced population across vast territories: *Logistical costs of intervention are higher than in other operations;*
- Building trust and empowering communities takes time and the situation is volatile: *Child Protection agencies required long-term and flexible funding to be able to swiftly respond to changing environment.*

*Currently, the Child Protection Sub-Sector in Myanmar has received **only 36% of the funding required** to sustain minimum and urgent child protection response in 2014.*

Contact

Emmanuelle Compingt

CPWG Coordinator

UNICEF Child Protection Specialist

+95 1 230 5960 to 69, Ext.1534

+95 (0) 9 421177293

ecompingt@unicef.org

Look for CPWG new web-page

www.themimu.info !

