Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DFAT CHILD PROTECTION GUIDANCE NOTE
MONITORING & EVALUATION

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PURPOSE

This Guidance Note provides **DFAT staff, program designers and partner organisations** with practical information and recommended outcomes, outputs and indicators to include in their Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practices. Including child protection indicators in M&E frameworks helps everyone meet their duty of care to 'do no harm' in the delivery of investments, through ongoing assessment of its child safeguarding measures. We recommend following this guidance for all investments and activities that have contact with children or work with children.

BACKGROUND

Monitoring and Evaluation helps improve performance and achieve results. Including child protection outcomes and indicators in an organisation's M&E framework and processes improves the quality and effectiveness of all program areas, and aims to achieve a positive change for children's safety and wellbeing. It also helps identify unexpected outcomes and impacts on children's safety and wellbeing (either positive or negative) throughout the program cycle. This allows an organisation to either build on positive outcomes, mitigate risks, or change activities to ensure children's safety and to achieve quality program outcomes.

Child protection outcomes can be difficult to measure as they can be intangible or hard to quantify, particularly as protection work is based around prevention. However, practical outcomes and indicators can be incorporated into M&E, to measure program impact on children and provide opportunities to improve the protection of children, including assessing the adequacy of child-safe practices.

To inform M&E and design processes, DFAT staff, program designers and partner organisations must:

- Conduct a child protection risk assessment to identify the possible risks to children that may come from the intended program activities.
- Identify the child protection issues facing children in the communities planned to program in as part of situational/baseline analysis. This will inform the child protection outcomes.
- Review and map child protection services, policies and systems at national, local and community levels to identify strengths and gaps, and opportunities for contributing to and linking with these systems to enhance outcomes for children.
- Group the program beneficiaries by gender, age, disability, ethnic background, and specific marginalised or vulnerable groups (children living with HIV/AIDS, children with disabilities, or girls).

Please read this guidance note in conjunction with:

- DFAT's Child Protection Policy (http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/child-protection-policy.aspx
- DFAT's Establishing Child Protection Risk Context Guidance Note (http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/child-protection-risk-assessment-guidance.pdf)
- DFAT's Aid Programming Guide (http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/aid-programming-guide.aspx).

MONITORING AND EVALUATION GUIDANCE NOTES

When putting a M&E framework together we need to determine the **positive outcomes** we want for the children from the program. Outcomes are the short and medium-term effects of an investment's outputs that can be achieved within the timeframe of the investment and/or aid investment plan. We can group child protection outcomes into three main categories – organisational outcomes, behaviour or attitudinal change outcomes, and wider external outcomes.

1. **Organisational child protection outcomes.** These are the mitigation measures put in place to reduce the level of risk to children's safety or wellbeing as a result of the contact the program and the program's personnel will have with children.

2. **Outcomes which aim for behavioural or attitudinal changes.** These can include:
   - a change in the way adults treat children and young people to improve their safety and wellbeing. This includes a change in beliefs and practices around what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour towards children; what are safe or abusive interactions with children; and attitudes around wanting to protect children from all forms of harm
   - a change in the way children and young people treat each other. This includes a change in practices and attitudes based on discrimination and social norms, as well as safe and abusive interactions with other children and young people
   - a change in children and young people speaking up about harm and abuse, and what they accept as safe/unsafe behaviours and practices by adults.

3. **Wider external outcomes.** Partnership and network opportunities with government, civil society or community help strengthen or develop policies, frameworks, systems and services that improve outcomes for the safety or wellbeing of children.

There can also be **unexpected outcomes**. These are unforeseen or unanticipated outcomes that have a direct positive or negative impact on the safety or wellbeing of the children involved in an organisation's program. Once identified, these outcomes can be addressed by adjusting program activities, and raising outcomes with relevant stakeholders. These will either reduce harm or to take advantage of an opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of the program for children.

Example: You are running a livelihood program for women who attend a training session weekly. During the program, women undertake employment placements for a two-week period. As part of your M&E some employers report poor attendance. You then consult with the women who say that they cannot leave their young children at home unsupervised, or take older children out of school to look after younger siblings for two weeks, the way they did for the training. You could make adjustments to program activities to ensure children were not being left alone or older children were not having their education interrupted.

This table gives some example child protection outcomes or outputs and example indicators to help organisations measure whether their programs are performing effectively.

Outcomes are the short and medium-term effects of an investment's outputs that can be achieved within the timeframe of the investment and/or aid investment plan.

Outputs are the products, goods and services that result from a development investment. These are delivered to parties external to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Indicators are a quantitative or qualitative variable that forms a simple and reliable means to measure achievement, to reflect the changes expected from an investment, or to help assess the performance of a development actor.

It is important that with each of these indicators, you take a baseline measurement before you begin the program so that any improvements or reductions can be accurately measured.

Table 1: Organisational change – child protection outcomes, outputs and indicators

	Example Outcomes or Outputs	Example Indicators
General	• A reduction in child abuse and exploitation due to use of adequate child safe recruitment and practices by organisation is achieved.	• % of personnel working with or in contact with children recruited using child-safe recruitment practices[1] • % of job descriptions that include specified level of contact with children
	• Staff and volunteers working with, or in contact with children are aware of their roles and responsibilities in implementing the organisation's child protection policy and measures.	• % of staff working with or in contact with children who have participated in child protection training • % of personnel signed onto child protection policy (CPP) and code of conduct (CoC) • % of personnel with demonstrated knowledge of their roles and responsibilities in implementing the CPP and CoC in performance review • % of staff and volunteers who have effectively managed a disclosure or report of child abuse or breach of CoC Organisational child protection audit demonstrates good application of child protection measures and standards • % increase in reports of child abuse and/or breach of CoC made by personnel[2]
	• Children involved in the organisation are aware of staff and volunteers' roles and responsibilities in implementing the organisation's child protection policy and measures.	• # of children aware of organisation's CPP and CoC
	• Child-friendly reporting mechanisms are put in place.	• # of child protection reports made by children and young people[3]
	• Safe, age-appropriate WASH facilities are provided.	• # of schools, clinics, etc. with WASH facilities separated by gender and adult/child
Research with children	• A reduction in child abuse and exploitation due to use of adequate child-safe recruitment and practices by organisation is achieved.	• all research personnel undergo child-safe recruitment practices • all research personnel participate in child protection training/briefing
	• A reduction in child abuse and exploitation due to adequate supervision of researchers is achieved.	• # of research trips accompanied by organisational staff • % of research that includes having a chaperone of child's choice present

[1] We recommend that organisations aim for 100% for all percentages mentioned here.

[2] [3] Please note that there may be an increase in child protection notifications due to people being more aware of child protection issues and reporting processes, where previously these had gone unreported and unsupported. An increase in reports can be a positive outcome.

	• Children and parent/caregiver are well informed about the research project, provided with informed consent, and know how to revoke consent.	• # of consent forms signed and filed • % of staff and volunteers who have effectively managed a request to revoke consent
	• Child-friendly feedback and reporting mechanisms are put in place.	• # of child protection reports made by children and young people • % of children reporting positive experience of their participation in the research
Infrastructure /maintenance	• An increase in child safety due to child-safe and friendly infrastructure design (ensuring that there are open and highly visible spaces that reduce the opportunity for abuse to occur) is achieved.	• # of schools, clinics, etc. with WASH facilities separated by gender and adult/child • building has well-lit, open spaces
	• A reduction in child abuse and exploitation due to use of adequate child-safe recruitment and child protection practices by the organisation is achieved.	• all contractors undergo child-safe recruitment practices • % of contractors briefed in child protection • % of contractors signed onto CPP and CoC • % reduction in sexual and physical abuse of children reported[4]
	• Children and parent/caregiver are well informed about the safety risks to children during construction.	• # of community briefings on safety risks to children during construction • # of briefings conducted for children about safety around construction zone
	• Complaints/reporting mechanism for children and community members is in place, and communicated in child-friendly way	• # of child protection reports made by community members, children and young people

[4] This indicator needs to be assessed with care as there may initially be an increase in child protection notifications due to people being more aware of child protection issues and reporting processes, where previously these had gone unreported and unsupported.

Table 2:
Behavioural and attitudinal change – child protection outcomes, outputs and indicators

Example Outcomes or Outputs	Example Indicators
• Communities, parents and caregivers are aware of child protection risks and take action to protect children from harm and abuse.	• #/% of community members who demonstrate changes in behaviour and attitudes towards child protection issues • # of parent information sessions held on child rights and child protection • # of parents attending information sessions • parents report positive changes in their children's emotional wellbeing • children report parents and communities are less violent
• Children are more aware of their protection rights.	• # of education groups/sessions for children and young people on child protection and wellbeing-related issues (such as adolescent sexual reproductive health) • increased # of children making a child protection report • increased access by young people to child/youth-safe services that specifically address their needs
• Children are safer in organisational and institutional settings, including educational facilities.	• #/% of teachers trained in: positive discipline methods; non-discrimination; gender equity and inclusion; identifying signs of abuse and how to respond and refer them • # of teachers who use positive discipline methods • #/% of children who report feeling safer in different contexts • #/% of children who report a reduction in cases of abuse • % of children who report feeling safer in class and at school • % increase in learning outcomes • % increase in school attendance • % of services who have adopted a child protection code of conduct • children report improved/positive relations with their peers and responsible adults • children report learning environments to be fun and participatory • funding secured to include child protection training for # of workers
• Specialised youth-focussed sexual and reproductive health services are provided.	• # of youth-focused sexual and reproductive health services • #/% of children and young people who report health clinics being more child and youth friendly • changes in prevalence of STIs and early pregnancies among adolescents

• Government is engaging in child protection measures and allocating resources for the implementation of child protection policies and programs.	• changes in national legislation and protection policies and frameworks • # of government/network meetings attended
• Community and government systems are strengthened and linked to prevent and respond to child abuse.	• # of cases where child abuse or exploitation has been successfully dealt with by community protection networks or independent child protection office • #/type /success of local and national civil society organisations partnering on child protection issues
• Involvement of children in government and community systems is increased.	• increased involvement of children in the setting of priorities for children services and policy

Children in alternative care settings

• Child protection monitoring systems are established or improved in residential and institutional care.	• % of residential care institutions who can demonstrate compliance with national standards
• Support systems for families to encourage reunification and support kinship care wherever appropriate are improved.	• % of children leaving care to live with family or kin • % of children placed with siblings
• More guidelines are in place to ensure child-safe/friendly environments.	• # of children who report a reduction in abuse while in care • % of children who report they feel safe when living in care setting • #/% of staff and volunteers trained in national legislation, child protection and frameworks for alternative care

Case Study

During the development of a community WASH facility, girls and women participate in a mapping exercise to identify safe and unsafe environments and locations within their community. This data is part of the baseline study and feeds into the design document. One of the child protection-focussed outputs in the design is: Women and girls feel safe when using the WASH facility for bathing. The indicators are % of girls and women report they feel safe using the WASH facility, and % of women and girls use the facility.

The WASH facility was constructed separating boys and men from girls and women, was well lit and supplied with safe water, and was located in an area that was not isolated. When staff monitored the project, women reported they felt safe and they regularly used the facility. However, girls reported they did not feel safe because the men from the community stared at them when they bathed, so they had stopped using the facility as they felt embarrassed and needed more privacy. When staff asked the girls what would make them feel safe, they responded that a higher wall that would protect their privacy would be better. The wall was easily built and the girls resumed using the facility to bathe.

In this instance the control measures to reduce risk were:

- including women and children in mapping exercises in the design phase
- constructing separate, well-lit WASH facilities that were located in an area that was not isolated
- supplying a safe water supply.

Ongoing monitoring of child protection throughout the project cycle identified that girl children did not feel safe. Therefore, the additional control measure of building a higher wall was implemented.