Enumerating Children Outside of Family Care and Measuring Separation in Emergencies

CPC/Better Care Network Symposium
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Enumerating Children Outside of Family Care & Separation in Emergencies

Comprehensive data systems for children outside of family care can:

- Measure and monitor trends of their numbers over time
- Spark and inform programmatic or policy responses
Current Work

1. Enumerating children outside of family care
   – Supported by USAID’s Center on Children in Adversity via JSI, in support of Objective 2 of the Action Plan on Children in Adversity
   – Methods to be piloted in Cambodia this year
   – Guidelines can be found at: www.cpcnetwork.org

2. Measuring separation in emergencies
   – Supported by OFDA through Save the Children on behalf of the Child Protection Working Group’s Assessment and Measurement Taskforce
   – Data from DRC under analysis (preliminary results)
Definitions

- **Separated children** are children who have been separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.

- **Unaccompanied children** are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.
Objectives:

To develop…

• **A Population-Based Estimation Tool**: to provide a population-based estimation of the prevalence and basic characteristics of unaccompanied and separated children in a defined area, affected by the same emergency, at a given point in time.

• **A Community-Based Surveillance Tool**: to provide routine data on trends and basic characteristics of unaccompanied and separated children in defined areas over time.
Quantitative Methods

• Population-based network sampling
  – aims to provide a population-based estimation of the prevalence, number and basic characteristics of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in a defined area, affected by the same emergency, at any given point in time.

• Community-based surveillance
  – continuous, on-going measurement of the prevalence, trends, and basic characteristics of unaccompanied and separated children in defined areas over time
  – could ‘trigger’ additional population-based estimations
Population-based network sampling

Cluster survey

- 14 data collectors
- 6 days of training
- 3 weeks data collection
- 20 sites (16 villages, 4 IDP camps)
- 25-28 interviews per site (HH, plus 2 neighbours)
Survey Tool

• HH composition before and after emergency
  – emergency = M23 take-over in Goma, December 2012 (limited ‘acute’ events in this setting)

• Identification of ‘new arrivals’ and ‘departures’
  – age, sex, causes, care situation
Preliminary Results: Arrivals

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HH_1</th>
<th>HH_2 + HH_3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PP</td>
<td>95% CI</td>
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<tr>
<td>prevalence of separation</td>
<td>8.47% (7.34-9.71)</td>
<td>4.69% (4.00-5.46)</td>
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<tr>
<td>in non-camps</td>
<td>9.07% (7.78-10.48)</td>
<td>4.14% (3.42-4.95)</td>
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<td>in camps</td>
<td>5.67% (3.59-8.46)</td>
<td>7.25% (5.30-9.64)</td>
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<td>prevalence of unaccompanyment</td>
<td>1.87% (1.34-2.52)</td>
<td>2.03% (1.58-2.57)</td>
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Prevalence of separation = 8.47%
[95% CI: 7.34-9.71]
Preliminary Results: Departures

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<td>(4.51-6.54)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>in non-camps</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>in camps</td>
<td>12.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prevalence of unaccompaniment</td>
<td>0.54%</td>
<td>(0.27-0.97)</td>
</tr>
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Prevalence of separation = 5.46%
[95% CI: 4.51-6.54]
Limitations

• Long recall period (20 months since Dec. 2012)
• Convenience sampling due to security concerns
• Systematic exclusion of child-headed households as primary respondents (HH1)
• Caretaker status for departures often unknown
• Technical experts required for implementation, 6-8 week timeframe from emergency onset likely unrealistic
Quantitative Methods

• Population-based network sampling
  – aims to provide a population-based estimation of the prevalence, number and basic characteristics of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in a defined area, affected by the same emergency, at any given point in time

• Community-based surveillance
  – continuous, on-going measurement of the trends, and basic characteristics of unaccompanied and separated children in defined areas over time
  – could ‘trigger’ additional population-based estimations
Community-based surveillance

- 10 of 20 sites from the population-based network sampling (villages only)
- 31 Focal Points (≈ 3 Focal Points per site)
- 2 days training
- STC partner organisation
  PAMI = Focal Point support, follow-up and urgent action
Surveillance Protocol

• Report by SMS for each child identified: age, sex, separated/unaccompanied, arrival/departure, cause, current care situation

• Weekly reporting to central phone, even if no cases

• Verification visits and reporting
Preliminary Results

Total Number of UASC by Week
Preliminary Results

Number of UASC by Week, Disaggregated by Sex

- Pink line represents Female
- Blue line represents Male

Weeks:
- Aug 11-17
- Aug 18-24
- Aug 25-31
- Sept 1-7
- Sept 8-14
Preliminary Results

Number of UASC by Week, Disaggregated by Age Group

- 0-4 years
- 5-9 years
- 10-14 years
- 15-17 years
Limitations

- Results cannot be generalized or used for enumeration
- Data quality highly dependent on Focal Points
- Individual case follow-up not realistic in most settings (PAMI = an exception)
- Potential to report old cases, despite training
- Security concerns for Focal Points in contexts where separation may have a military or trafficking aspect
Next steps

- Finalize analysis for population-based network sampling
- Continue ongoing community-based surveillance
- Adapt methods and tools based on field-learning
- Report findings and identify opportunities for additional pilots
Thank you