ADAPTING TO LEARN, LEARNING TO ADAPT: KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM STRENGTHENING IN EMERGENCIES

**Child Protection Systems/ Disaster Risk Reduction Task Force
Child Protection Working Group**

Overview

- Development of guidance on child protection systems strengthening in emergencies

- How it defines the CP system

- Key lessons learned to date

- Key Considerations?

Considerations for strengthening child protection systems in emergencies

- **Why?** General acknowledgement that this remains a gap

- **Who?** Inter-agency Taskforce on Child Protection Systems Strengthening and DRR of the global CPWG

- **What?** Considerations for strengthening child protection systems in emergencies including reflections on lessons learned

- **How?** Desk review, key informant interviews

- **When?** Final version June 2016

Child Protection Systems

- **Formal and non-formal systems** – those sanctioned by laws, regulations and policies and those not formally mandated but existing as a result of attitudes, values, behaviours, social norms and traditional practices in society.

- **Time** – not static

- **Inter-connections** – exist within and between CP system components, between the different levels and between the different components at different levels.

Key lessons learned to date…

- Establishment of parallel systems

- Potential to undermine existing systems

- Unsustainable and not viable

- Potentially alienating – to children, families, communities, societies

- Not appropriate and/or relevant to the context (meeting needs, context etc.)

Key lessons learned to date: CPiE

- Blueprint/ checklist approach? What does this mean for CP system strengthening?

- Systems not perceived as holistic, tendency to work on individual components with little view to the wider inter-relations within the system. For example agencies tend to either focus on the national system, while others focus on the community level system with little view to how the two link and connect.

Key lessons learned to date: CPiE

- Re-packaging previous approach – 'systems strengthening' – what has really changed? Conceptual ambiguity, but more so operational ambiguity.

- Context matters!

- Heavy focus on response services rather than spectrum of actions

Are we organizationally geared towards strengthening CP systems in emergencies?

- Nature of agencies mandates, structures etc. organized to look at certain parts, but not as part of a holistic system with an intended goal.

- Funding still tends to be primarily project based. Humanitarian funding cycles do not facilitate a longer-term view.

- Phased approach to emergencies – strategies, staffing, funding etc.

Are we organizationally geared towards strengthening CP systems in emergencies?

- The development/ humanitarian divide (two sides of the same coin, but what is the practical reality?)

- Lack of learning – from and honesty about mistakes made, such that they are repeated time and time again.

- Desire to have set plans and logical frameworks developed at the outset of a programme – not allowing for iterative learning

Key considerations for CP systems strengthening in emergencies

- Adapting to learn: Adapting our ways of working so we are better able to learn

- Learning to adapt: learning and understanding how to better contextualize interventions

- Think of 'systems' not a single system – child protection systems are nested

- Recognize there is always an existing child protection system and a range of actors (levels)

Key considerations for CP systems strengthening in emergencies

Guiding questions:

- OUTCOMES: What are the outcomes for children and families?

- SYSTEMS: What exists (at the different levels, what is the interaction)?

- SOCIO-CULTURAL NORMS: What socio cultural norms is the system based on?

- PERCEPTIONS: How do actors perceive each other?

Key considerations for CP systems strengthening in emergencies

Guiding questions:

- ROLE: What is your role within the system?

- ASSUMPTIONS: What are our assumptions / preconceptions coming into a new context?

- CONTINUUM OF ACTION: How can we compliment and support actors at all levels within existing system?