



## CPMS Video Series - Facilitator's Notes

### Standard 12 – Child Labour

**Background:** This document was created to promote the use of the video on Child Labour. It is intended to prompt discussion among people who have watched it and want to learn more about the topic, as well as to reflect collectively on current or future implementation of the standards in their context. It could be used as part of a coordination meeting, briefing session, orientation or training workshop.

#### Discussion Points:

- *Child labour is work that is unacceptable because the children involved are too young and should be in school, or because even though they have reached the minimum working age (usually 15), the work they do is harmful to their emotional, developmental or physical wellbeing.*
- *Some work that children do need not necessarily be eliminated, but made safe. This may be work that is legal for children of certain ages, that does not interfere with the child's education or training and that does not engage them for too many hours.*
- *Many child labourers are engaged in its worst forms, such as forced or bonded labour, in armed conflict, trafficking for exploitation, sexual exploitation, illicit work or other work that is hazardous because it is likely to harm their health, safety or morals. A large majority of boys and girls in worst forms of child labour are in hazardous work, sixty per cent of which worldwide is of an agricultural nature.*
- *Child labour is a child's rights violation (UNCRC, Art.32). It is a cause of poverty and underdevelopment. Children subjected to exploitation, with little or no basic education, are more likely to grow into illiterate adults, and be physically and mentally stunted. Their chances of breaking out of the poverty trap are limited.*

#### **Message 1: A humanitarian crisis is likely to impact pre-existing levels of child labour, increasing its occurrence and the severity of the work children do.**

- 1.1 What do we see as current/potential causes of child labour? What is getting worse?
- 1.2 What mechanisms do we have to collect this data systematically?
- 1.3 What measures are in place at the a) organizational and b) community levels to prevent deterioration of children's working conditions?

### Things to stress

- Emergency preparedness can significantly reduce the burden of responding to child labour during a crisis through enabling understanding of the pre-existing issues and responses.
- With the potential loss of livelihoods, breadwinners and access to education and in the event of family separation and displacement, children become particularly vulnerable to child labour and especially its worst forms.
- An emergency situation may increase the overall incidence of child labour, give rise to new forms of child labour, or move children who were already working to more dangerous and harmful work (e.g., agricultural work in fields where mines are laid).
- Some of the worst forms of child labour, such as trafficking for exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation, are major child rights violations. However, the majority of children will be found in hazardous work, especially in agriculture

### **Message 2: Prioritize the worst forms of child labour, starting with those related to or made worse by the emergency. Be sure to consider local forms of hazardous work, which may have been defined by the government.**

2.1 What mechanism is in place to analyze the evolving nature of child labour in this emergency?

2.2 What is the definition of hazardous work here? What information is available?

### Things to stress

- Hazardous work is a “worst form” of child labour. Of the worst forms of child labour, it is most prevalent worldwide. Response should be prioritized and funded in emergencies.
- Addressing child labour, in particular hazardous work, has been a neglected area of Child Protection in Emergencies programming to date.

### **Message 3: Understand, adapt and strengthen existing systems and structures that can address child labour during the emergency.**

3.1 (If discussing as part of preparedness) Do we have adequate resources and logistics, common information-sharing protocols and forms? What would need to change in making the rapid shift to emergency operations?

3.2 Have we mapped the organizational, governmental and community systems and structures that address child labour? How have they been affected by the emergency?

3.3 Do we have a functioning case management system in place? What can be done to improve it?

3.4 What new resources (human and financial) are available at agency, governmental or community levels?

### Things to stress

- Do not sideline or duplicate them.
- Eliminating child labour requires long term commitment
- Where they exist, collaborate with the child labour national steering committee and the child labour unit in the Ministry of Labour or equivalent
- Integrate response and preparedness to humanitarian crisis into national child labour policies and programmes

## **Message 4: Since there are many reasons why children work, an emergency requires a comprehensive response that is integrated with child protection and other sectors.**

4.1 Who are our allies in other sectors? Who were we working with before the emergency and how have they been affected?

4.2 How can we improve the effectiveness of our mainstreaming (partner sectors) and advocacy (donors and government) efforts?

4.3 Are there any sticking points in coordination and collaboration? What can we do to address them?

### **Things to stress**

- This may require tailored, targeted programmes or simple mainstreaming depending on the situation and existing services available.
- Since household poverty and barriers to education are often the main drivers of child labour, measures aimed at sustaining livelihoods, providing social protection to affected populations and improving access to quality education are key elements to an effective response
- Trying to address child labour without providing livelihoods or education responses can do harm by pushing children into greater poverty or worse forms of child labour.
- Integrate child labour concerns with the humanitarian response (child protection, education, early recovery etc.)
- Ensure data is collected that can influence such interventions, whether by fundraising for new programmes or informing advocacy and mainstreaming with other sectors.

### **Overall:**

- Do we need to expand our teams to meet growing needs and retain quality service? If yes, how do we do that?
- How do we ensure our response is sustainable and feeds into longer term child protection programming?
- Have we considered if and how the 10 CPiE principles are being upheld through our work?
- Are we linking with efforts to implement other relevant standards: coordination, information management, case management, community-based child protection, justice, livelihoods and education?
- What training opportunities do we have and do we need to create?
- Have we mapped our human, financial and community resources?

### **Key Resources (created after publication of the CPMS):**

- *Interagency Toolkit to Support Humanitarian Programmes Meet the Protection Needs of Child Labourers in Emergencies* (CPWG's Child Labour Task Force, forthcoming)
- Training materials: relevant modules in CPWG's Face-to-Face CPiE package (2014)