1. Purpose of the Strategic Advisory Group

The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) of the Child Protection Sub Sector is made up of selected key child protection partners that come together regularly to provide strategic direction to the Child Protection Sub Sector. The purpose of the SAG is to provide strategic advice to the CPSS recognizing that decision making resides with the members of the CPSS.

2. Guiding principles for the Strategic Advisory Group

As with the Child Protection Sub Sector, the SAG will be guided by the humanitarian and protection principles and the minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action (CPMS 2019) in its work. SAG will adhere to principles in the CPMS 2019, including, inter alia, the following principles:

I. The best interests of the child
II. Enhance people’s safety, dignity and rights and avoid exposing to further harm
III. Child participation;
IV. Strengthen children’s resilience;
V. Strengthen child protection systems;
VI. Non-Discrimination and inclusion;
VII. Survival and Development;
VIII. Sensitive information is subject to confidentiality; and
IX. The interests of the Sub-Sector will be the primary considerations for members (rather than the interests of their individual organization);

3. Responsibilities of the Strategic Advisory Group

The Strategic Advisory Group will have the following areas of responsibility. Input into the three functions of the SAG will be on an ad hoc basis, evenly distributed between members. Whereas attendance at SAG meetings is mandatory for identified members:

a. Strategic advisory role:

I. Support the Sub Sector to develop and adjust the sub sector’s strategic framework and key documents, including but not limited to the Sub-Sector and Protection Working Group Strategy and Joint Response Plan (JRP), including establishing priority interventions, prioritization of resources, setting targets and indicators, and monitoring progress on these strategies and plans;
II. Develop position papers and statements on child protection issues and guide Sub-Sector inputs into broader Protection Working Group initiatives, such as protection guidelines, strategy and policy inputs;
III. Advise on key advocacy messages for Child Protection related issues
IV. Support the sub-sector with key decision making on CPSS related issues
V. Advise on and bring child protection priorities to the attention of the Protection Working Group, the ISCG and SEG as well as other stakeholders; with a focus on Child Protection mainstreaming into other sectors; and
VI. Support internal and external evaluation of the sub-sector and sharing of lessons learned.

b. Technical advisory role:

I. Validate common processes and standards of quality related to the sector’s response such as beneficiary identification and prioritization (targeting); agreement of common standards and approaches; or use of common data collection and information management tools;
III. Provide technical guidance within Protection Sector and Inter-agency initiatives aimed at strengthening child protection within the response
IV. Develop CPSS inputs for funding instruments and initiatives;
V. Coordinate peer review process to ensure that all CP members adheres to minimum standards as laid in the CPMS 2019; and
VI. Review key programming tools, guidance, standards and benchmarks that are developed for common use before sharing with the Sub Sector membership for validation.

c. Coordination advisory role:

I. Develop, adjust and monitor the sub-sector’s costed work plan; to ensure implementation of the sector’s objectives against the JRP
II. Support in the coordination of field level child protection mechanisms including standardized representation and communication flows between field/camp and Cox’s level as needed;
III. Support CPSS coordinator with coordination on key CP issues with national CP cluster and relevant national level forums
IV. Recommend the formation of technical working groups on ad hoc basis as needed and reviewing overall effectiveness; and
V. Improve and strengthen the overall structure, capacity and effectiveness of the Child Protection Sub Sector in line with the six core functions of sectors.

4. Composition of the Strategic Advisory Group

In order to be efficient, the SAG membership is limited to ten members – 3 UN agencies, 1 line ministry, 3 INGOS, 3 NNGO, and the CPSS Coordinator. Additional agencies can be invited, on an ad hoc basis, based on agreement quorum where this would strengthen the function of the SAG.

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1 The primary purpose of the cost analysis will be to come up with cost information for broader activities planned by CPSS members for the child protection programme responses. Cost Analysis would be related to determining the cost incurred on the inputs to achieve result of the activities so this can be supported with informed planning on how well these can be further reviewed /updated to increase the results of the output.

2 Based on ‘IASC Reference Module for Cluster Coordination at the Country Level’, 2015. The 6 core functions: 1. to support service delivery; 2. To inform the HC/HCT’s strategic decision-making; 3. To plan and implement cluster strategies; 4. To monitor and evaluate performance; 5. To build national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning; 6. To support robust advocacy – adapted to subsector for Cox’s Bazar
Requirements for membership:

I. Organizations have significant child protection expertise and operational child protection experience in Bangladesh;

II. Organizations have the ability to be represented at meetings of the SAG in Cox’s Bazar in person;

III. Organizations have demonstrable technical capacity to contribute to the main area of responsibilities outlined in section 3 above;

IV. Organizations are represented by senior members of their respective organizations. Each member organization will have one primary focal point to attend the meetings and one alternate to attend in the absence of the primary SAG focal point of the respective organizations;

V. Membership will be on an individual basis (i.e. one nominated member as Primary SAG Focal Point from identified agencies). Attendance will be by the Primary SAG Focal Point to ensure consistency and strategic decision-making processes.

VI. Communication within and between SAG members will be through Primary SAG focal point. If possible, in instances primary SAG focal point is unable to attend meetings, remote feedback on priority issues will be accepted and reinforced by alternate within meeting.

VII. Members (Primary Focal Point) are required to attend a minimum of 75% meetings. Where member does not attend for more than two SAG meetings in a row, the SAG will have the option to discuss and vote to remove such member from the SAG (in consultation with member).

VIII. All SAG members are expected to commit to constructive cooperation for the wider purpose of the Child Protection Sub Sector. SAG members are expected to meaningfully participate in review and feedback of key CPSS documents and processes.

IX. SAG will determine entry procedures for new members and perform periodic reviews on SAG members with option to remove members if abovementioned criteria are not being fulfilled.

5. Methods of work of the Strategic Advisory Group

I. The SAG will ordinarily meet once a month and will be convened by the CPSS Coordinator;

II. Ad-hoc meetings may be called by the Coordinator or at the request of a SAG member as appropriate;

III. The CPSS Coordinator will lead on administrative issues for the smooth running of the SAG, including arranging meeting space, sending invitations, documenting meetings and tracking action points;

IV. An agenda will be circulated in advance of meetings. Any SAG member can request agenda items in advance;

6. Miscellaneous

I. The duration of the SAG membership is one year;

II. The selection process will happen through self-nomination and CPSS elections; and

III. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis, or earlier at the request of a SAG or Sub sector members.

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3 In exceptional circumstances, the secondary focal point may participate in alternative but expectation is that secondary focal point is fully briefed in such cases so as to provide meaningful and informed input.