Sector Highlights

- During the last quarter, Child Protection sub-sector partners have reached 50,688 of the most vulnerable children who need psycho-social assistance, 1,223 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). In addition, 8,818 community members and 210 authorities through emergency life-saving and preventive child protection interventions.

- As of the end of January 2016, the Child Protection sub-sector had received only 32% of the total funding required for the whole year.

- The Child Protection sub-sector developed a child protection assessment system contextualized for Sudan. The system consists of four different types of tools for all CP stakeholders including: a CP Rapid Assessment Toolkit, CP questions to be used during inter-agency assessments, CP questions to be used during Protection Sector lead assessments and a brief set of CP questions to be used by other sector representatives during sector assessments where there is no protection representation.

- In December 2015, under the leadership of The National Council of Child Welfare (NCCW), the Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) for Humanitarian Action were successfully validated and are being rolled out from January 2016. Fifteen ministries of the Government of Sudan endorsed nine important standards including on physical violence and harmful practices, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), children associated with armed forces and armed groups, and community based mechanisms.

- In December, the annual review of the family tracing & reunification (FTR) system in Sudan was conducted by the National Council of Child Welfare with the support of the Child Protection sub-sector and UNICEF. Heads of the State Councils of Child Welfare (SCCW) and the Ministry of Social Welfare, as well as INGO and NGO representatives, joined the discussion.

- The rollout of national minimum standards, training package on psychosocial support was initiated in January 2016, with the First Training of Trainers (TOT) program for government protection staff from 11 states. The national minimum standards were launched in November 2015 together with the government marking a significant milestone for improving the provision of psychosocial services to the most vulnerable children in an emergency context of Sudan.
As stated under the 2015 Protection Sector Strategic Response Plan, the Child Protection Sub-Sector is focused on interventions aimed at saving the lives of the most vulnerable children and preventing child recruitment, family separation, sexual and physical violence, and psychosocial distress in critical priority localities of Sudan.

As of 31 January 2016, the Child Protection sub-sector managed to make significant progress in terms of family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), provision of psychosocial support, expansion of community-based child protection services and creating awareness among vulnerable communities and service providers. Government and non-government partners of the CP Sub Sector reunified 1,223 UASC in the 5 Darfur states, Blue Nile and North & South Kordofan states accounting for 20% of the sub sector 2015 HRP target and 82% of the quarterly HRP target for the CP sub sector.

All 1,223 reunified children have been placed with either family or community-based alternative care services while children with serious protection concerns have been placed in interim care facilities. To ensure sustainable reintegration and community-based psychosocial support for the most vulnerable children, 21 referral mechanisms have been established or strengthened.

During the last quarter of the year, seven child friendly spaces and eight community-based child protection mechanisms have been established and supported in areas where acute emergencies are taking place. 50,688 of the most vulnerable newly registered children from emergency affected states were newly registered and received individual or group counselling, play therapy and recreational facilities in 162 child friendly spaces. In total, 342 active community-based networks are actively monitoring and reporting the situation of more vulnerable children and make necessary referrals to support child victims. The sub sector lead agency and national NGOs have established seven child friendly spaces and eight community-based CP networks in North and Central Darfur, and in South Kordofan.

Continuous efforts have been made to improve the capacity of community members and government authorities. The partners on the ground have reached 8,818 community members, including women, children and community leaders on prevention of recruitment, family separation, sexual and physical violence and mine risk education in the Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. 210 government officers including child protection service providers at federal and state levels, social workers, and staff from humanitarian agencies have been trained to provide high quality child protection services to the most vulnerable children and communities.

The Child Protection sub-sector requires at least additional funds of USD $15 million in 2016 to ensure the continuity of ongoing Child Protection interventions, and to scale up critical lifesaving child protection activities until the new 2016 HRP is approved and rolled out.

The situation has deteriorated in and around the Jebel Marra area resulting in displacement towards Tawila, Kebkabiya, Fangra Suk, Sorthony, Tina, Khori and many other localities in North, Central and South Darfur. This has created a critical emergency situation where killing, sexual harassment and injuries upon children and women have been reported. Unless resources are made available, protection and survival of the most vulnerable children and women in these areas are threatened.
Validation of Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action in Sudan

“A valuable opportunity to advance the discussion around child protection in emergencies in Sudan.”

From 1st to 3rd December 2015, the Child Protection Sub-Sector in Sudan organized a workshop to validate the contextualized Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) in Humanitarian Actions. The workshop brought together child protection experts from 22 government institutions and nine humanitarian agencies who worked on the contextualization of the CPMS in early 2015. The contextualized CPMS handbook for Sudan was presented to high level government representatives from 15 government institutions; contextualized standards were agreed upon by all representatives at the forum. The validated standards will be rolled out in ten emergency affected states in Sudan, including the five Darfur states, the three Kordofan states, White Nile and Blue Nile states.

The CPMS were launched in Sudan in June 2013 as a first step to create guidelines for CP sub sector response. Sudan participated in the initiative by contextualizing nine of the 26 standards. The interagency minimum standards for child protection have the potential to transform the quality and the rigor of our work to protect children in Sudan. By validating the selected 9 minimum standards, the Government of Sudan urged all those involved in humanitarian action to seize this opportunity, and implement and promote these Standards.

Workshop participants demonstrated active engagement which significantly helped in making progress on discussions around child protection in emergencies. The workshop concluded with plans to print the handbook for nine child protection minimum standards for Sudan and to implement the roll out plan for 2016. Special thanks to the CPMS country task force of Child Protection sub-sector members (National Council of Welfare, UNICEF, Plan Sudan, Save the Children, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Friends of Peace and Development Organization (FPDO) and Global Aid Hand (GAH), AORD) who were responsible for the CP Minimum Standards contextualization process in Sudan.

The validation and contextualization process was jointly funded by key partners of CP sub sector including UN agencies, and International and National NGOs, namely UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International and Global Aid Hand. The process was implemented with full ownership of the Government of Sudan and CP sub sector Partners.

Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) in Humanitarian Action establish common principles amongst those working in child protection, and to strengthen coordination between them, it helps to improve the quality of child protection programming, and its impact for children, improve accountability within child protection work. It further define the professional field of child protection and provide a synthesis of good practice and learning to date. CPMS enable better advocacy and communication on child protection risks, needs and responses. There are 26 CPMS have been developed globally with the participation of 400 experts and 30 organizations and field tested in 16 countries around the world.

9 CP Minimum Standards contextualized for Sudan

- Standard 1 Coordination
- Standard 3 Communication, advocacy and media
- Standard 5 Information management
- Standard 8 Physical violence and other harmful practices
- Standard 11 Children associated with armed forces or armed groups
- Standard 13 Unaccompanied and separated children
- Standard 15 Case management
- Standard 16 Community-based mechanisms
- Standard 20 Education and child protection

These standards are intended for use by those working on child protection or related areas of humanitarian action. This includes those working directly with children, families and communities; planners and policy makers; coordinators; donors; academics; and those working on advocacy, media or communications. It includes government personnel and those working in independent or multilateral organizations; and it may also include those working in the justice system and security personnel, as well as armed forces and armed groups.
On 23 November 2015, NCCW, UNICEF and Ahfad University launched the national minimum standards training manual for “Psychosocial Support for Children and Adolescents in Emergencies.” This manual was developed in order to provide quality psychosocial support (PSS) to conflict and emergency-affected children by training service providers to a minimum standard and ensuring that underserved adolescents are also taken into account.

In Sudan, conflict and the resulting displacement have had devastating effects on the psychosocial wellbeing of children. Many children have experienced or have been directly affected by abuse and violence which places them at a high risk of experiencing psychosocial distress. Many children have experienced the death of parents, family and loved ones. Displacement and camp life severely disturb children’s daily routines which in turn affects their psychosocial wellbeing. The emotional wounds may be less visible than the destruction of homes and infrastructure, but it often takes far longer to recover from the emotional, psychological and social impact than material losses. At a global level, provision of psychosocial support is recognized as a lifesaving activity. Therefore it is imperative we raise the quality of psychosocial support available to all children.

The goal of the manual is to train all current and future service providers on minimum standards that will best serve children and adolescents who have been affected by emergencies. In order to achieve that, there will be a joint effort between the Child Protection sub-sector, UNICEF and NCCW to roll out the manual in 2016.

The foundations of this manual began to take shape in 2014, when Ahfad University with the support of the NCCW and UNICEF conducted an assessment of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in three states: North Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan. The assessment revealed a gap in the primary service providers knowledge of psychosocial support (PSS), which has resulted in poor quality services provided to children receiving PSS in child friendly spaces. The assessment also revealed poor targeting of adolescents, which was again attributable to a certain extent to the lack of knowledge and training of animators in CFS.

In 2016 current practitioners will adopt the manual nationally and apply it to their work. The shift will be led by the Child Protection sub-sector. Moreover, the capacity of the Ministry of Social Welfare and social workers at both national and state levels will be built to ensure the sustainability of this training. The training of trainers process will be supported and coordinated by NCCW with the support of UNICEF.

In response, NCCW and UNICEF requested Ahfad University deliver a technical training package for psychosocial support which will be endorsed as a national minimum standard and rolled out nationally. The package consists of five days of core technical training, three days focusing on general PSS, and two days dedicated to adolescents. The package was piloted in White Nile and North Darfur. The pilot revealed two critical elements to ensure the successful delivery of PSS to children and adolescents. The first was the inter-related nature of CFS management and community support; in order to deliver quality psychosocial support strong CFS management and community support is required. Moreover, there was a clear need to reconsider the use of CFS as the exclusive service point for PSS to children and adolescents. PSS needs to be mainstreamed into complementary mechanisms, such as CFSs, schools, communities and other social bodies as a part of the roll out plan for this manual.

The rollout plan of the training manual was initiated on the 7th of January; conducting a training of trainers in all conflict affected states who will deliver this training to the CFS animators and social workers at the locality levels.

The electronically published version of the training manual can be found here: nccw.gov.sd/ver_content.php?ver=32
**Emergency response– Partner achievements**

**Summary on CPIE (Child Protection in Emergencies) Response**

During the last four months period, partners of CP Sub Sector quickly and effectively responded to onset emergencies in Blue Nile, North Darfur, Central Darfur, West Darfur and South Kordofan where 1,223 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) were reunified with community based alternative care while 24,409 children have received psychosocial assistance including individual and group counselling, recreational facilities and other types of social therapeutic methods through 29 child friendly spaces. Broad door-to-door awareness campaigns were conducted by social workers and animators to identify the most vulnerable children in communities. Partners included UNICEF, Federal and State ministries of Social Welfare, Federal and State Councils of Child Welfare, Seaker (NGO), Kabkabiya Small Holders Association (KSCS), and Tearfund. These partners provided a timely emergency response for life saving CP interventions in the five most emergency-affected states with financial contributions through the CHF and CERF funding mechanisms.

UNICEF, the lead agency, is providing roving technical support through child protection specialists in emergency hotspots in the Darfur states as well as South and West Kordofan and Blue Nile. More than six child protection experts have been seconded to government and non-government implementing partners to support organizations in delivering quality and on time life saving child protection services.

The last time humanitarian organizations from North Darfur visited the northern Jebel Marra area was in 2011. No access has since been possible in western, central or northern Jebel Marra areas due to insecurity. An inter-agency mission was organized on 11 November to visit Fanga Suk in North Jebel Marra Locality. The overall aim of the mission was to conduct a rapid assessment of the situation in the locality to inform response planning for people in need of assistance.

UNICEF, the Federal and State level Ministries of Social Welfare, the Federal and State Councils of Child Welfare and Seaker, were able to provide Child Protection services in Funga Suk, Jebel Mara, as soon as the interagency mission opened the way for humanitarian assistance and the findings revealed serious protection issues for children. Within one week of interagency mission, the CP working group members and UNICEF managed to access the area and provide rapid response in the form of 3 temporary child friendly spaces and delivery of recreational kits to start working on the psychosocial issues among the children and the community.

The need to conduct a specific child protection rapid assessment was raised and executed through Seaker organization. The rapid assessment helped identify child protection issues, including but not limited to psychosocial issues among children and families, unaccompanied and separated children, UXO/ERW (Unexploded Ordnances/Explosive Remnants of War) risks, and a wide range of violence and violations against children. UNICEF and partners, cognizant of the need for rapid response to these issues, started delivering lifesaving child protection services from December 2nd onward, as CP partners managed to establish community based child protection networks with a total of 51 participants and three CFSs benefiting 892 children (552 girls and 340 boys). Trained animators and community volunteers working at CFS continue to conduct in-depth assessments in villages in the surrounding area to reach the most disadvantaged children. CP partners documented and reported grave child rights violations through the CP working group members and community based CP network members. All three CFS were planned and constructed together with community members, CP partner organizations and children in Fanga Suk (Jebel Marra).
**Emergency Response in Blue Nile**

In the last quarter, CP sub sector partners in Blue Nile State have reached more than 5,000 vulnerable children including more than 100 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) amongst newly displaced populations in Damazain, Rosaries, Bau, and Tadamon localities. This includes psycho-social services, family tracing and reunification programmes, community mobilization, and mine risk awareness. Thanks to funds from the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) Friends for Peace and Development Organization (FPDO) has been able to provide reunification and reintegration assistance to more than 24 unaccompanied and separated children with the leadership of the State Council of Child Welfare (SCCW) and the child protection working group in Blue Nile.

AORD continues to provide psycho-social services and field monitoring and reporting of newly displaced IDP communities across Blue Nile with the support of strong community based child protection networks in all 6 localities of Blue Nile State. International and national partner presence in Blue Nile is an asset to life saving child protection interventions and coordination of child protection response despite challenges in access and implementation.

**Emergency Response in South Kordofan**

Child Protection sub-sector has a strong presence in South Kordofan State. Three INGOs and eight NNGOs are actively involved in monitoring, reporting and providing lifesaving assistance to the most vulnerable IDP children in nine localities. During this reporting period, Global Aid Hand (GAH) and NIDDA organization have provided psycho-social and reunification services for more than 12,000 children from Al Abbasiya, Rashad, Leri, and Abu Jebaiha localities. GAH has established and continues to run 12 child friendly spaces, provide field based support to the State Council of Child Welfare and State Ministry of Social Welfare to reunify unaccompanied and separated children.

NIDDA organization expanded their lifesaving child protection services in Rashad and Al Abbasiya localities through family tracing and reunification services and by establishing two child friendly spaces helping 862 most vulnerable children. NIDDA in South Kordofan is funded by the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF). 64 reunified unaccompanied and separated children in Rashad and Alabassia are receiving individual and group psycho social services through these newly established child friendly services. To ensure adequate quality and sustainability of the work, 34 protection officers from the Ministry of Social Welfare and State Council of Child Welfare have been trained in child protection in emergencies including family tracing and reunification.
Child Receiving Medical Treatment as part of the released reintegration process supported by UNICEF, Nyala, South Darfur State November 2015

CMPS Validation Workshop at NCCW December 2015

UNICEF, Child Protection Officer monitoring a CFS in Abyei, November 2015

CFS recreated by NIDAA through CHF Fund, Rashad

Child Receiving Medical Treatment as part of the released reintegration process supported by UNICEF, Nyala, South Darfur State November 2015

Children enjoying their time at CFS established by WVI in South Darfur State, November 2015

To training on Psychosocial Support by GAH, South Darfur November 2015
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