



Child Protection Needs Identification and Analysis Framework Briefing Note

Introduction

Child Protection is moving toward an approach of needs identification and analysis, which better reflects the inter sectoral nature of child protection risks. The Child Protection AoR has spearheaded this approach via the NIAF module development and roll out in 7 countries in 2018¹. This includes the use of multiple sector data sources, and cooperation with other sectors to include more child protection relevant information collection, as well as associated training for those collecting information as well as establishment of protocols for information sharing, evidenced by the global cooperation with IOM in their Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) which represents a key source for CP NIAF Globally.

A developmental move toward integrated needs identification and analysis has implications for child protection assessments. Rather than the historical approach of having relatively separate steps between multi sectoral assessment and analysis and those specific to child protection, they will be integrated from the outset, with child protection specialists directly involved in analysis. Broad information collected by other sectors and data collection initiatives-including official administrative data- with links to child protection will be utilized, such as that collected by food security agencies on household coping strategies. These will be analyzed by child protection specialists along with information management colleagues, also in cooperation with other sectors and paying particular attention to the inclusion of national actors within the overall process as key component of the AoR's localisation work stream. Based on an initial geographical, affected groups and issue severity ranking site profiling would then follow to validate, and better understand how risks are present at different sites. As a second phase such child protection site profiling will complement initial data driven processes and make greater use of participatory and qualitative approaches, including those with affected populations. They will also need to be lighter and faster, rather than the historical CPRA model which has typically taken weeks and months and involved significant time and financial investment.

Such a phased approach reflects both the inter related nature of child protection issues, as well as the need for specificity in understanding causality at a community level. The combination is best suited to inform integrated programming which incorporates the required level of child protection specialization.

1. What is the CP NIAF?

The Child Protection Needs Identification & Analysis Framework (NIAF) is the approach that the CP AoR has defined since 2018 for supporting the country offices, in country Areas of Responsibility, and national and international partners to identify and analyse needs of children in humanitarian settings whether in natural disasters, complex emergencies, famine or disease. The NIAF framework is the result of a combined extensive Child Protection and needs identification and analysis expertise for adopting innovative approaches and systems in meeting Child Protection AoR mandate.

¹ Countries currently rolling out the CP NIAF: Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Niger, Syria Arab Republic, South Sudan and Yemen



The CP NIAF is not a data collection methodology, is a framework, anchored in the principles of inclusion, complementarity and contextualization combining information management and analysis tools available to any humanitarian actor that wants to make use and adapts them to their needs. The framework creates a common approach across Child Protection coordination and response actors on the continuous needs identification and data interpretation to enable a more evidence-based analysis and therefore, a better and streamlined operational planning of child protection responses in countries affected by emergencies and crises.

As a framework, it will make use of the existing in country data sources - UNOCHA led Multi Sectoral Need Assessments, IOM/Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), official administrative data, sector specific assessments/surveys, incidents reports etc. and their products (datasets) following this rationale:

Data usefulness: Data sources produced with a minimum level of reliability and sound methodology should be considered as valid data entries within the framework. These sources include, but are not limited to: assessments, need monitoring, the use of proxy indicators, key informant networks, and other unorthodox means to identify needs. The framework should be able to define how each of the information sources should be considered.

Data complementarity: The methodology framework should ensure that conflicting datasets can be comparable (i.e. aggregating or disaggregating datasets for ensuring unit of analysis comparability).

Context-based tailored approach: The Framework should represent a methodological approach with the capability to adapt to different contexts and realities. The methodology produced under this consultancy should be applicable in all types of operations, including protracted and sudden onset emergencies as well as low capacity operations.

Moreover, the methodology framework takes into consideration the following three pillars:

Technical - The pillar which focus on the information management component. In this directly connected with the work with IMOs and technical staff applying the key technical approaches chosen for the framework. The technical pillar requires a strong command on IM and how these tools can be adapted, or tailored, to the in country different realities and pre-existing capacities.

Coordination – A second pillar defined to ensure that the technical IM tools/analysis and the sectoral data interpretation, prioritization and operational planning and response options are kept aligned during the overall process. This pillar involves constant coordination and exchange with the wide array of stakeholders participating in the framework.

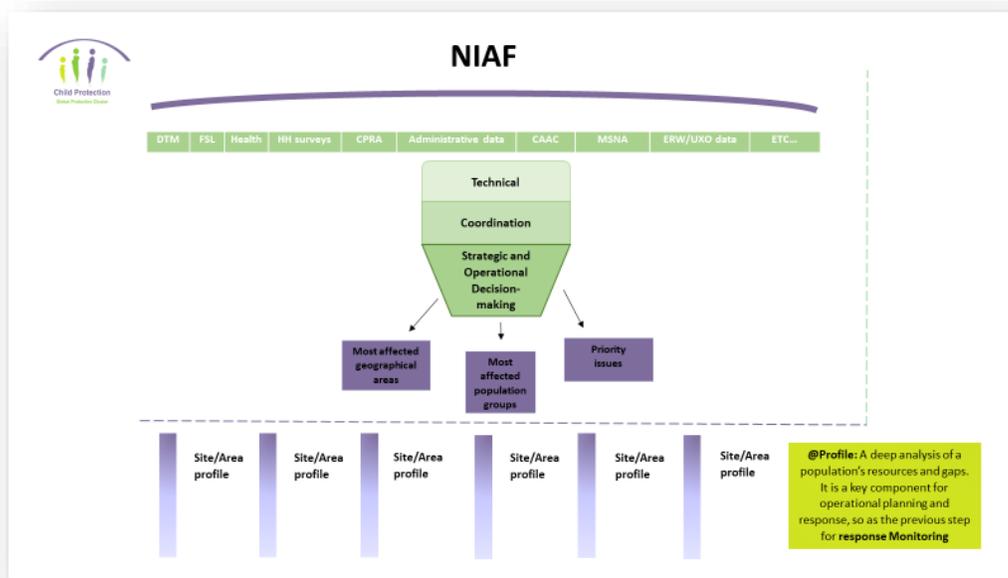
Decision making at operational and strategic levels – This third pillar addresses the critical step on how to make use of the framework findings to facilitate an evidence-based decision making process which will immediately impact and guide the response. In the framework, this pillar will provide tools, adaptable approaches and guidance-including advocacy-to the technical and coordination ones-on how they can successfully contribute to the decision-making, and involving a strong consensus-building component showcasing the benefits of working under the integrated approach of the framework, instead of pursuing stand-alone ones.



The NIAF is CP AoR's response to the spirit of the "Grand Bargain" and the ambition to better assess the needs of populations affected by humanitarian crisis. The NIAF works closely with the existing initiatives and groups linked to this Grand Bargain commitment such as the Global Cluster Coordinators Group (GCCG), JIAG, and the HPC review working groups as part of the global efforts of moving towards a more integrated approach on identification, analysis and monitoring of needs across the humanitarian sectors.

2. Phases of the CP NIAF

The following infographic shows the full sequence of needs identification and analysis considered under the NIAF:



NIAF INFOGRAPHIC
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Divided in two staggered phases, the NIAF considers how to identify and analyse needs at strategic and operational level:

Phase 1. Strategic level:

Following the NIAF's rationale in the use of data and covering the technical, coordination and strategic decision-making pillars; it identifies the 3 key information needs to be considered by any sector and any humanitarian setting for severity ranking. These are:

- . Most Affected geographical areas: Which ones are the administrative boundaries where the response should focus.



. Most affected groups: Within these administrative units, which ones are the most affected groups or at risk to which the CP response should be prioritized.

. Priority issues: Through the data interpretation carried out by the CP experts and coordinator for the array of partners and stakeholders, and taking into consideration the existing/projected response capacities, it defines which are the priority type of CP responses to the most affected groups in the most affected areas.

Phase 2. Operational level:

The second NIAF phase focuses on profiling the initially prioritized areas during the strategic phase making greater use of participatory and qualitative approaches, including those with affected populations.

It also consider an even closer collaboration with other sectors for analysing local-including from governmental to community-based- and humanitarian actors' responses, resources and gaps. This integrated approach with the sectoral responses and the wide array of stakeholders during the profiling and response planning will notably reinforce two child protection key aspects; a) better CP coordinated responses ensuring buy-in and commitment from CP respondents and b) ensuring the centrality of CP of the response.

The NIAF phase two it also represents the required previous step of a better response monitoring as it creates a solid evidence-based baseline aligning every CP actors under the same framework and rationale for operational and response planning.