Evaluation of UNICEF Programmes to Protect Children in Emergencies
Escalation in armed conflict globally

Increasing number of children at risk
• Rising frequency / intensity of natural disasters
• Affected children are at risk of all kinds of violence, especially in camp settings
UNICEF CPIE Investments have been growing…

- 46 countries with CPIE programme in 2012, including some large-scale operations (e.g. Syria and Sahel region)

- UNICEF’s growing role:
  - Cluster lead responsibilities (Child Protection Working Group, Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, …)
  - Leadership of the Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
  - Development of the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence
  - ………

- No prior major evaluation of CPIE
Purpose / Objectives of the Evaluation

- Assesses CPiE performance during 2009-2012 against UNICEF’s MTSP targets and Core Commitments to Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs)
- Assesses effectiveness of child protection strategies and integration of key organizational cross-cutting approaches
- Informs roll-out of UNICEF’s Strategic Plan (2014-2017) and strengthening of CP strategies and response
Scope of the Evaluation

- Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) (2006-2013)
- Core Commitments to Children (CCCs) in Humanitarian Action (2010)

Cross-cutting & operational issues
1. Leadership established
2. Monitoring & reporting undertaken
3. Mechanisms strengthened
4. Separation prevented/addressed
5. Violence, incl. GBV, prevented/addressed
6. Psychosocial support provided
7. Child recruitment and detention prevented/addressed
8. Landmine use prevented/addressed

✓ Covers preparedness, response, recovery phase
✓ **Relevance and appropriateness** of UNICEF’s response
✓ **Effectiveness** of UNICEF CPiE programmes, against given benchmarks and targets
✓ **Efficiency** of UNICEF’s response
✓ **Connectedness** of integrated programming, with other UN actors/partners and of COs to ROs and HQ
✓ **Cross-cutting issues**… integration of equity, gender equality and human rights considerations, knowledge management, advocacy and communication
Field visits to 4 case study countries (Colombia, DRC, Pakistan, South Sudan): interviews/focus groups, direct observation, secondary data (MRM, etc.)

Assessment of CPIE in 8 desk review countries (Afghanistan, Haiti, Myanmar, Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine and Sudan): questionnaire (incl. NGO inputs), literature review, analysis of secondary data

Key informant interviews at HQ/RO level and synthesized findings and recommendations based on broader research
Limitations

• Between country comparisons: varying context/time spans of implementation
• Insufficient or absent baseline, outcomes and impact data led to weak comparative analysis
• CPiE not compared to alternative models for addressing violence, exploitation and abuse
• The analysis focused on UNICEF’s contributions rather than attribution
Findings vis-à-vis the MTSP/CCCs: Key Achievements & Successes

- **Reunification** of separated children is effective in the fast onset contexts (70 to 100%) and somewhat effective in protracted conflict situations (31 to 58%)
- Wide reach of UNICEF-supported psychosocial interventions; exceeded CO targets (84-297%); 8-13% of affected children benefited, including the most vulnerable; many partners involved
- Significant numbers (4,475) of children (mostly boys) associated with armed forces/groups reached by reintegration programmes across 7 countries in 2012; UNICEF played a major role in training, reporting and advocacy
- The ‘Monitoring & Reporting Mechanism’ (MRM) has provided verified data against six grave violations in 8 countries concerned, especially where a task force is in place;
- UNICEF programming has been very effective in some countries in responding to gender-based violence and in preventing harmful practices, especially at the field level; safe houses and multi-sectoral interventions provided expected services
Findings vis-à-vis the MTSP/CCCs: Key Achievements & Successes (ctd.)

• **Mine risk education** (MRE) is reaching high % of target populations (76-124%); MRE is reported to have resulted in greater awareness, modified behavior and in some cases increased sightings and reporting.

• UNICEF led the child protection sub-cluster in 10 of the 12 countries, producing good results; UNICEF is highly valued by partners for quality technical **leadership** in CPiE, inter-agency coordination and development of frameworks for response.

• **System-strengthening**: preparedness standards for CPiE developed and adopted by governments in most settings; capacity building initiatives accessible to a wide range of partners.

• **Advocacy** agenda strongest on recruitment and when undertaken in conjunction with other UN agencies/Humanitarian Coordinator.

• Geographical areas with high concentrations of hard-to-reach groups identified; access to services by sex was **equitable**.
Findings: Key Gaps & Weaknesses

- Lack of **long-term follow-up** of beneficiaries, esp. for reunification and reintegration programmes (inability to satisfy donor requests)
- Mixed evidence on **quality of psychosocial services** and hard to gauge impact
- **Monitoring and reporting on grave violations** other than recruitment weak; challenges include significant under-reporting (child labour, trafficking, FGM/C, child marriage excluded); understaffing, weak partner capacity; under-resourcing
- **Prevention of violence**, especially physical violence, weaker than response; few efforts made to engage boys and men
- Weak application of **system strengthening** lens in conflict affected and fragile states
- Incorporation of **social change/social norms approaches into preparedness** ad hoc rather than planned and strategic; few social change interventions
- **Advocacy**: Only half the country offices say they have a CPiE advocacy strategy on any issue and lament lack of support by regional offices and headquarters, including through speaking out at global level
- **Equity**: Children with disabilities are most underserved group
Main Conclusions

Relevance / Appropriateness:

- CP Strategy (2008) is broad and comprehensive however, alignment between the CP Strategy and CCCs (2010) is weak.
- Programme theories and results-based programming are weak
- Integrated planning and inter-sectoral/inter-cluster linkages are weak, esp. with WASH

Effectiveness:

- Mixed results overall; results were strongest for reintegration, psychosocial interventions, mine risk education, and cluster leadership; results were weakest for preventing violence against children and on monitoring and reporting
- Contributions to social norms change/systems strengthening were not always salient
Main Conclusions by Evaluation Criterion (ctd.)

**Efficiency:**
- UNICEF responded quickly and effectively to scaling up human resource capacity in major emergencies
- Serious shortage of resources (CP staff and funding) remain in some countries

**Cross-cutting issues:**
- Equity considerations are successfully mainstreamed with the exception of disability
- Social change communication and case/data management are erratic
Recommendations (Summary)

• Further develop **inter-agency human rights based advocacy**; engage on rule of law/impunity issues and security sector agendas

• Strengthen the **prevention of violence against girls, boys and women** in emergencies through social change interventions

• Strengthen **data management, case management and evidence building** for advocacy, programme management and accountability

• **Raise funding** for CPIE by providing evidence of results and emphasising need for prevention

• **Harmonize the CP strategy and CCCs**; analyze the application of the CP strategy in fragile and conflict affected states

• Strengthen inclusion of **children with disabilities**

• Invest in systematic **capacity development** of governments and national NGO partners
Thank you