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Rationale for the Evaluation

• Child Protection Systems Strengthening (CPSS) has been an organizational objective since adoption of UNICEF Child Protection Strategy, 2008
  • Ongoing work – yet never comprehensively evaluated

• Renewed emphasis on systems strengthening as a change strategy in the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021

• Monitoring reports do not provide a clear picture of progress in CPSS
  • Need for an evaluation to understand what is working/not working and what further needs to be implemented

• Humanitarian-development nexus imperatives require a stronger understanding of systems strengthening.
## Evaluation Framework

### UNICEF core investments
- Policy dialogue and advocacy
- Evidence and research
- Capacity building
- Workforce strengthening
- Coordination and partnerships
- Case management
- Financial support for services and infrastructure
- Leveraging public resources
- Service delivery
- Minimum standards and quality control mechanisms
- Children’s participation
- Community-based protection

### Assumptions
- Organizational leadership and support
- Conceptual clarity around “child protection systems strengthening”
- Sustainable and predictable funding for CPSS

### Intermediate outcomes
- Regulatory framework
- Continuum of services
- Governance structures
- Minimum standards and oversight
- Resources
- Social participation

### Outcome
- Countries have strengthened child protection systems (for prevention and response services to address violence against children)

### Impact
- Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

### Enablers
- Context indicators: better governance; higher human development; higher per capita income

### Assumptions
- Contribution of other (national and international) actors
- Coverage (geographical)
- Reach (vulnerable populations)
Conclusion: Uneven programme performance

- UNICEF’s programme performance on CPSS has been moderate overall. Progress was uneven, with stark gaps in low-income and humanitarian contexts.
  - *Strong performance*: strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks; supporting government-led reform of existing CP systems.
  - *Weak performance*: strengthening embryonic systems not widespread.
- UNICEF’s corporate reporting systems on expenditures and results are inadequate to demonstrate the exact level of UNICEF’s contribution.

Conclusion: Effective interventions

- The evaluation has identified a number of interventions that are particularly effective for strengthening CP systems, including:
  - capacity-building/social workforce strengthening
  - leveraging public resources
  - evidence and research
  - policy advocacy
- Staff lack technical support for operationalizing CPSS approach in different programming contexts and against the backdrop of large issue-based initiatives and VAC as unifying umbrella concept.
Conclusion: Unclear commitment from UNICEF and donors and incomplete national ownership

- **Donors** have played a largely adverse role in advancing national CP systems by **distributing funding on a narrow issue-by-issue basis and using parallel monitoring and reporting systems.** UNICEF needs to present key donors with a compelling ‘business case’ for CPSS.

- While UNICEF has had considerable **success** in raising awareness among national partners, by and large, this has **not translated into adequate domestic investments** in CPSS.
Key Results on Gender & Equity

• Many programmes show **adequate attention to the evolving capacities and age** of girls and boys

• Response services target the **most vulnerable boys and girls** while prevention and early intervention services have a wider focus. Children living with **disabilities** are sometimes overlooked

• **Gender analysis** on population-level data, needs assessments and impact measurement not widespread

• There were **good synergies** (and some competition) between GBV and CPSS programming.
Recommendations

1. **Make clear** the **UNICEF definition** of and **role** in CPSS and ensure that this approach is **prioritized** in organizational strategies, policies and plans.

2. **Invest** in the most impactful CPSS areas, according to the **UNICEF niche**, to strengthen child protection systems: social-service workforce-strengthening; the leveraging of public resources; evidence and research; policy advocacy; as well as child-protection information systems; case management; and coordination.

3. **Strengthen** staff and partner **capacities** and learning on CPSS.

4. **Address CPSS funding** challenges: **business case** for donors, leverage earmarked funds, support analysis and advocacy for **domestic investments**.

5. **Address** the CPSS data and **measurement** challenges.
Thank You

Our Products

• Website: https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_103557.html