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Measuring the Maturity of Child Protection Systems

A GUIDE ON HOW TO USE THE CPSS BENCHMARKS

APRIL 2022

Introduction

This User Guide is a public good intended to assist in applying the Child Protection Systems Strengthening (CPSS) Benchmarks and complements the UNICEF [Child Protection Systems Strengthening Approaches, Benchmarks and Interventions](#) publication.

Background

UNICEF's [2021-2030 Child Protection Strategy](#) and [2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#) have identified child protection systems strengthening (CPSS) as a priority strategy to achieve child protection outcomes. In 2021, UNICEF published a paper that outlines our [CPSS approach](#) going forward. The publication outlines the key considerations that shape this approach, describes the programme–impact pathways, the seven intermediate outcomes of CPSS (Figure 1), and high-impact CPSS interventions. It recommends a four-phase maturity model for CPSS and benchmarks to track progress and measure impact of UNICEF's CPSS work.



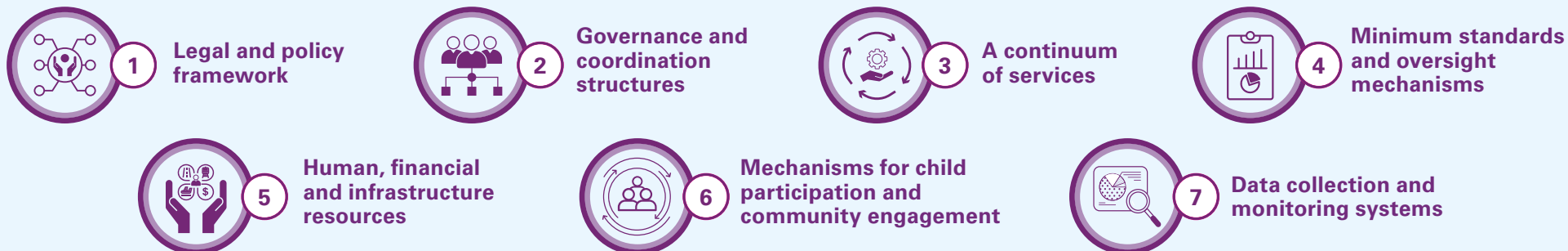
Child protection systems strengthening (CPSS) approach:

Children do not usually fit into neat categories according to the protection needs they experience. The CPSS approach addresses the programmatic fragmentation that has characterized issues-based approaches to child protection. This approach is also cost-effective because child protection systems are designed to serve all children and so strengthening the system will increase its capacity to reach the most vulnerable and ensure that no child is left behind. In doing so, CPSS contributes to long-term sustainability of child protection efforts.

2.1 Value-add of using the CPSS Benchmarks

Using the CPSS Benchmarks will determine the level of maturity of the child protection system in the country and identify the

FIGURE 1. Seven intermediate outcomes of CPSS



most strategic and high-impact interventions for their context, to systematically move along the systems strengthening trajectory.

An objective analysis of where a country stands on the 19 subdomains across seven intermediate outcomes of CPSS, conducted periodically¹ will help identify the subdomains that are lagging. This information can then be used effectively in the ongoing CPSS work by planning for and implementing strategic steps and high-impact interventions designed to strengthen priority subdomains that need urgent attention.

¹ See also Figure 4 on entry points for CPSS benchmarks within UNICEF's country programme cycle.



UNICEF's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan requires us to report annually on the progress in strengthening child protection systems. To facilitate this, the SP includes a dedicated indicator and the CPSS Benchmarks is being operationalized for this purpose.

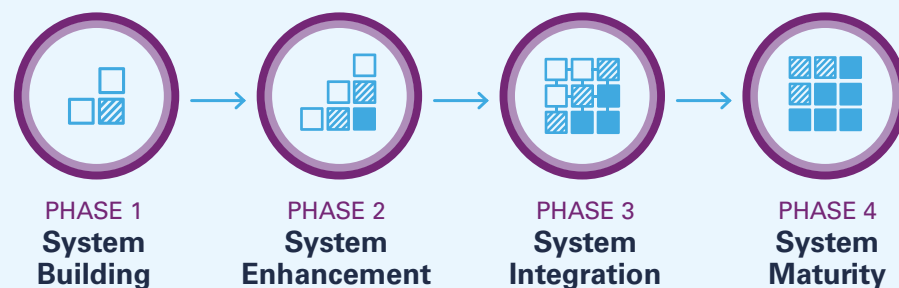
In 2022, UNICEF launched an online dashboard on the maturity of the child protection system in countries around the world. Containing data collected from 155 countries and territories, the dashboard displays global, regional, and country level data on all the 7 intermediate outcomes and 19 subdomains of CPSS. The dashboard will help countries identify key gap areas and priority actions. Further, it will enhance UNICEF's leadership role in CPSS and transparency of our investments in CPSS and the results achieved.

CPSS Maturity Model

3.1 Four phase-model of CPSS

UNICEF recognizes that child protection systems evolve through different stages and proposes a maturity model with four phases of CPSS (Figure 2). It is recognized that, for child protection systems to mature, all elements of CP systems (intermediate outcomes and subdomains) must be progressively strengthened. The CPSS phases and benchmarks are designed to help countries understand the status of CPSS within their own context.

FIGURE 2. Four phase-model of CPSS



3.2 Intermediate Outcomes and Subdomains

The CPSS maturity model and benchmarks are based on the seven intermediate outcomes of CPSS, which have been identified as priorities for UNICEF's work on child protection systems strengthening. Multiple subdomains have been identified for each

FIGURE 3. CPSS Benchmarks

Reporting Year 202__		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
		System Building	System Enhancement	System Integration	System Maturity	
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME <p>1. A robust legal and regulatory framework, as well as specific policies related to national child protection systems strengthening.</p>	SUBDOMAIN <p>1.1 Understanding and articulation of national CP system</p>	PHASES OF MATURITY				
		<p>Limited understanding of child protection system among policymakers. Protection interventions (both prevention and response) are issue-based, may exclude certain population groups and addressed as standalone interventions or ad-hoc responses.</p>	<p>Increased attention to a systematic manner results in analysis of the existing system(s). Mapping and assessment of existing child protection system is undertaken/ completed but interventions/ response continues to be issue-based/standalone.</p>	<p>The (national) child protection system policy (and plans). The definition of CP system includes a clear articulation of its boundaries and relation to other/ allied systems (i.e., health, justice, education, social protection etc.) Specific issues may be identified and addressed, but the responses designed are system-wide.</p>	<p>There is formal high-level (political) system allocation of financial and human resources and its relationships with other/allied systems. All child protection interventions (prevention and response) within the broader multisectoral responses are led/coordinated by the recognized national/sub-national child protection system.</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 point	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 points	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 points	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 points	
		ATTRIBUTES				
		<p>Normative framework/ legislation outlining national child protection system does not exist.</p>	<p>Normative framework/ legislation outlining national child protection system is in progress but not uniform across the country and</p>	<p>Implementation structures/mechanisms are in place but not fully functional.</p>	<p>Implementation structures/mechanisms are mostly/fully in place. Regular reviews, evaluations and audits of functioning of</p>	

Assessment Process

The CPSS Benchmarks are designed to be self-administered through periodic joint assessments conducted by all relevant stakeholders. The baseline assessment and progress monitoring will enable stakeholders to identify intermediate outcomes and subdomains that are lagging in progress and thus need

of the seven intermediate outcomes, and priorities, processes, and results have been articulated for each subdomain (Figure 3).

The CPSS benchmarks, described above elaborate the characteristics of each of the subdomains through the course of systems strengthening, indicating a gradual progression/ advancement of that subdomain from system building (Phase 1) to system maturity (Phase 4).



It is important to note that various elements of CPSS are not neatly separated watertight compartments – elements progress (often slowly) from one phase to another. At times, the progress or lack thereof, on a particular element can have an impact on the progress of another element.

focused attention to move the needle towards a more mature child protection system in the country.

4.1 Objectivity, Consistency, and Consensus

Given that elements are interconnected, interrelated and mutually-reinforcing, determining in which phase a particular element is cannot be established using a simple yes/no checklist or be based on the views of a few individuals. As such, countries need to put in place a systematic and inclusive way of assessing and reporting on the benchmarks. Assessments of benchmarks must follow the principles of objectivity, consistency, and consensus. Policymakers, experts, practitioners, as well as community members, including children and young people will play a crucial role in making these informed assessments.



Tips on how to identify an appropriate mechanism

Where possible and available, engage with existing groups or mechanisms such as:

- ✓ “Outcome Groups” for UNSDCF. Ensure that voices of “non-implementing partner” organizations and agencies are effectively included in discussions.
- ✓ Thematic working groups or technical groups on child protection issues are functional and can be used effectively. These groups can discuss the benchmarks and provide their thematic inputs into the CPSS Benchmarks assessment.

- ✓ Discussing the benchmarks will also help identify areas of CPSS that the thematic groups can contribute to through their policy, programming, and advocacy.

If a regular group is not available, setting up a new mechanism such as a systems strengthening/reform advisory group could be the best way in this situation.

While UNICEF is strategically placed to co-lead the process, it will be important to ensure that it is co-owned and co-led by the government.

The following process offers **practical tips** to ensure that the assessment of CPSS benchmarks is done systematically, objectively, and consistently – through broad participation with and inclusion of all relevant stakeholders – to reach consensus and agreement on priority interventions.

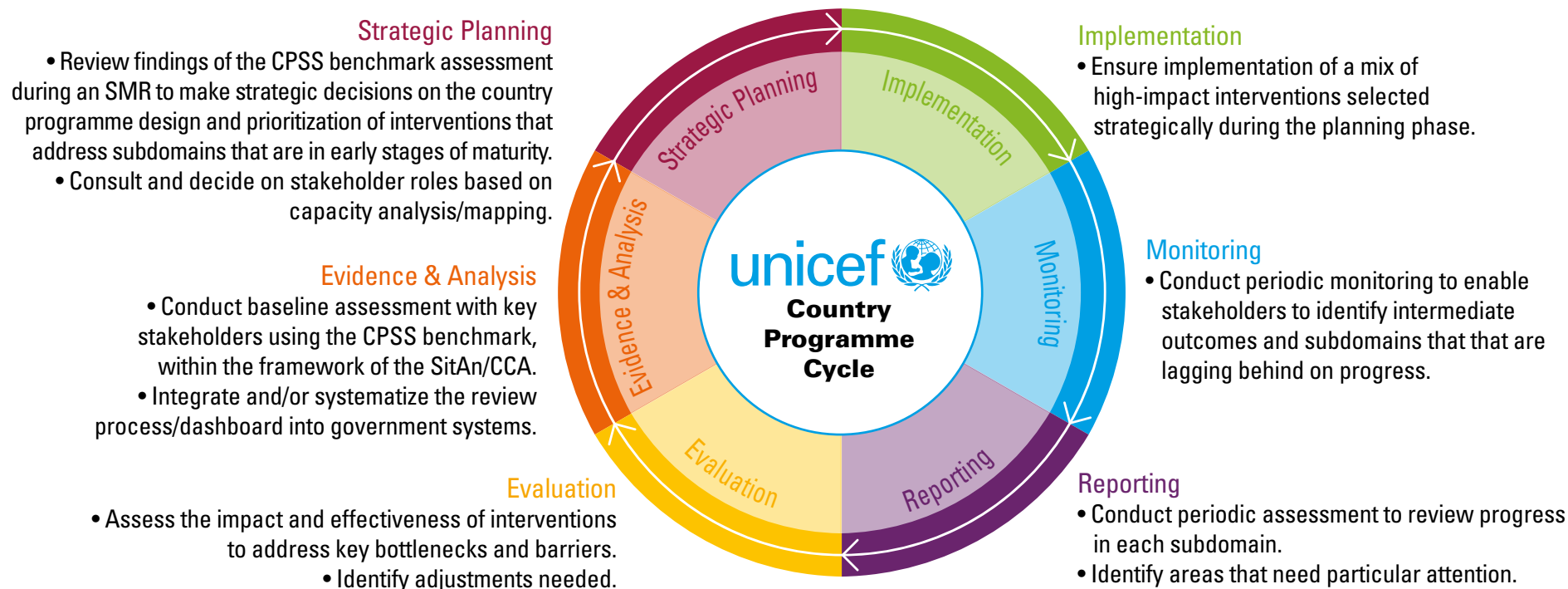
4.2 Build consensus among key stakeholders

- ✓ Identify and consider using existing coordination mechanisms before thinking of establishing new ones.
- ✓ Ensure that the group is clear about the objective of the process and is committed to building consensus on assessment and reporting.
 - To be sustainable, efforts to strengthen child protection systems must have broad national ownership and buy-in from communities.

- ✓ Ensure participation of experts and government, NGOs and others, including children and young people² that champion the intermediate outcome or are engaged in similar work. Consider setting up small (2-3 persons) working groups for each intermediate outcome.
 - In several subdomains, other ministries apart from the lead CP ministry have the central role (e.g., statistics offices for the data part, Ministries of Education/Health). It will be important to include stakeholders from these ministries/ lead agencies.
 - Equally important is an inter-ministerial structure at the highest possible level of government to bring together national stakeholders in child protection and ensure cross-sectoral **buy-in and ownership** of CPSS at national and state/ subnational levels.

² See resources in [Adolescent participation and civic engagement](#) | UNICEF

FIGURE 4. CPSS Benchmarks can be used strategically during various stages of UNICEF's Country Programme cycle



- ✓ Define the frequency of reviews. At the global level, UNICEF will report on this indicator on an annual basis during annual reviews. At the country level, the CPSS Benchmarks can be used strategically during various stages of UNICEF's Country Programme cycle (Figure 4).
- It is recommended that at the national level, the process be aligned with national child protection planning processes and its periodicity.

- In addition to mid-year and annual reviews, it is strongly recommended that a country assessment using the CPSS Benchmarks is done within the context of conducting the Common Country Analysis (CCA)³ and/or the Situation Analysis.⁴

³ Prior to the preparation of UNSDCF

⁴ Prior to developing the Country Programme of Cooperation between the government and UNICEF

- The assessment of benchmarks will provide useful information on areas of CPSS that need to be prioritized over the period of the Country Programme. Reviewing the findings during Strategic Moment of Reflections will be critical in making strategic decisions on the country programme design and prioritization of interventions.
- ✓ Define the process and agree on a reform roadmap or workplan with some clear short- and long-term actions.
- ✓ Identify the means of verification (MoV) ([see Annex](#)) or methods to assess progress against benchmarks. Enlist the reference materials and documentary evidence that will form the evidence for assessment, i.e., the means of verification. These should ideally be organized per each subdomain.

4.3 Assess and document

- ✓ Use a participatory approach. Workshops to assess and report on the benchmarks will be a useful method to ensure active participation.
- During the workshop, working groups for each intermediate outcome will first deliberate and assess intermediate outcomes in separate breakout groups.
- The working groups can then present those assessments to the larger group for validation. The working group for each intermediate outcome should make a strong case for their recommendation, backed with evidence from agreed MoV.



Subnational assessments and how they can feed to national level assessments

- ✓ With increasing decentralization, policies and programmes are often implemented by subnational level authorities, such as provincial/state governments. In some countries, provincial governments may also have the authority to adapt national legislation.
- ✓ As the context significantly influences CPSS work, there can be notable variations in how the various elements of CPSS progress in different provinces/states of the country.
- ✓ It may be helpful to undertake subnational exercises to measure the CPSS benchmarks at the state/provincial level.
- ✓ Similar to the global dashboard, countries can develop national level dashboard that can effectively capture and represent subnational data collected through the process. UNICEF Country Offices with presence at subnational level through field/zonal offices could initiate this process in cooperation with the national and subnational governments.
- ✓ This will help national authorities understand which provinces need to prioritize certain elements of CPSS urgently. At the same time, this will help develop a more systematic way of reporting into the global dashboards.

✓ Agree and record ([see Annex](#)). It is important that, after necessary deliberation, there is consensus in agreeing on which phase (1 through 4) each subdomain falls under.

- Record the decision per subdomain, together with a brief justification, preferably in the form of evidence/means of verification and can also be recorded as additional notes under the selected phase. This documentation will ensure consistency in reporting and will limit arbitrariness and individual biases. Use or adapt the annex provided at the end of this document. (In addition to the printable version, recommend automating it for ease of record-keeping. Visualization using annually collected data is available on the dashboard on the maturity of the child protection system).

● 4.4 Interpret and translate results into actions

✓ Use the findings to identify gaps and define respective actions under each intermediate outcome and subdomain. CPSS is significantly influenced by the overall socioeconomic and socio-political context. Therefore, a holistic understanding of the context is essential for ensuring effective and relevant assessment of CPSS benchmarks, and not all the elements of CP systems progress uniformly or at the same pace. In fact, a specific situation in a country and the lack of investments in certain aspects of CPSS can result in reversal of progress made across multiple elements.

- Actions can include advocating for collaboration and partnerships to develop certain components, learning lessons from subdomains that are particularly strong, modifying existing workplans to prioritise areas for improvement that













are lagging behind or allocating additional resources to move certain subdomains forward.

- As CPSS Benchmarks are continuously assessed, monitor changes between the two time points and examine which intermediate outcome and subdomain has shown improvement, which a decline, and which still need improvement to plan and budget accordingly.

Annex: Template for assessment and reporting

Offices may use this template for CPSS benchmark assessment. Please refer to [Section 4](#) of the Guide for tips on how best to use this template.






Reporting Year 202____		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
		 System Building	 System Enhancement	 System Integration	 System Maturity	
 1. A robust legal and regulatory framework, as well as specific policies related to national child protection systems strengthening.	1.1 Understanding and articulation of national CP system	Limited understanding of child protection system among policymakers. Child protection interventions (both prevention and response) are issue-based, may exclude certain population groups and addressed as standalone interventions or ad-hoc responses.	Increased attention to understanding and responding to child protection concerns in a systematic manner results in analysis of the existing system(s). Mapping and assessment of existing child protection system is undertaken/completed but interventions/response continues to be issue-based/standalone.	The (national) child protection system (and its key elements) is/are clearly defined and agreed upon in national policy (and plans). The definition of CP system includes a clear articulation of its boundaries and relation to other/allied systems (i.e., health, justice, education, social protection etc.) Specific issues may be identified and addressed, but the responses designed are system-wide.	There is formal high-level (political) commitment to child protection system strengthening, including adequate allocation of financial and human resources and its relationships with other/allied systems. All child protection interventions (prevention and response) within the broader multisectoral responses are led/coordinated by the recognized national/sub-national child protection system.	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	
	1.2 Legislation on CP System and implementation structures/mechanisms	Normative framework/ legislation outlining the national child protection system does not exist.	Normative framework/ legislation outlining the national child protection systems exists, and is inclusive of all children in a country, but implementation structures/ mechanisms do not exist or are weak/ad-hoc.	Implementation structures/ mechanisms for the normative framework/legislation outlining the national child protection system is in progress but not uniform (across the country and across workstreams) and progressively become gender responsive and inclusive of all children.	Implementation structures/ mechanisms for the normative framework/legislation outlining the national child protection system are mostly/fully in place. Regular reviews, evaluations and audits of functioning of the national child protection system are undertaken, and recommendations are made for revision to legislation and regulations that govern the child protection system.	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	

Reporting Year 202____		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
		 System Building	 System Enhancement	 System Integration	 System Maturity	
 2. Effective governance structures, including coordination across government departments, between levels of decentralization and between formal and informal actors	2.1 Lead Ministries/agencies with responsibility and mandate to strengthen child protection	There is/are no lead ministries/agencies at national government level in charge of child protection.	There are lead ministries/agencies at the national government level in charge of child protection systems, but it is weak due to limited authority, human capacity, financial resources, and limited mandate.	The lead ministries/agencies in charge of child protection systems is functional and adequately resourced (human and financial resources). Its mandate and authority related to child protection has been established, well-articulated, and formally communicated and recognized across government at national and state levels, as well as outside of the government. Work is underway to improve/strengthen its links with other national/sub-national bodies with responsibility for child protection.	The lead ministries / agencies responsible for delivery of child protection at central government level is linked to sub-national bodies (either ministerial departments or local government authority) with responsibility for child protection and is active and effective in fulfilling its child protection responsibilities across the country.	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	
	2.2 National, multi-sector, coordination mechanisms	There is no national, multi-sector coordination mechanism that steers/directs child protection work and functioning of the child protection system.	Multiple national, multi-sector child protection coordination mechanisms have been established; however, all or most of such mechanisms are issue-based (e.g., child labour task force, anti-trafficking coordination committee), and often work in silos/in isolation from one another due to the lack/absence of mandate with the lead ministry/agency or the child protection authority to unify such mechanisms.	A national, multi-sector child protection coordination mechanism has been established under the aegis of the lead ministry responsible for child protection, with specific terms of reference, high-level authority/leadership to convene different sectors/ministries and is currently working towards strengthening coordination across sectors.	The national, multi-sector child protection coordination mechanism is formalized and fully functional, its role is known to stakeholders and its working is reviewed against the term of reference and disseminated regularly. The terms of reference revised as needed and the lead ministry/agency has oversight of the functioning of the mechanism.	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	

MEASURING THE MATURITY OF CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS






A GUIDE ON HOW TO USE THE CPSS BENCHMARKS






Reporting Year 202_____		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
		 System Building	 System Enhancement	 System Integration	 System Maturity	
 <p>2. Effective governance structures, including coordination across government departments, between levels of decentralization and between formal and informal actors</p>	2.3 Availability of intra and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms at the implementation level	<p>Informal coordination (in the absence of formal SOPs) exists amongst service providers at the implementation level, but it is largely voluntary, driven by individual initiative.</p>	<p>Formal coordination mechanisms across select agencies/departments at local level, including for humanitarian coordination, exist but such mechanisms are ad-hoc and primarily related to service provision.</p>	<p>SOPs/regulations for formal coordination mechanisms that focus holistically on planning, programme implementation, monitoring and reviews across agencies and departments have been established but implementation of these mechanisms is not uniform across the country.</p>	<p>Intra and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for planning, programme implementation, monitoring and reviews have been formalized and the functioning of these mechanisms is reviewed against SOPs/regulations and disseminated regularly.</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	
 <p>3. A continuum of services (spanning prevention and response)</p>	3.1 Modelling, testing and scaling of child protection services	<p>Child protection services are available but are ad-hoc and do not address all child protection concerns. Government funded programmes primarily/ largely focus on response services for specific “groups” of children and address some CP issues. Some “pilot” prevention focused services exist, but are largely donor funded, and limited in geographic/programmatic scope.</p>	<p>Systematic modelling and testing of a host of prevention and response related child protection services is currently underway, mostly funded by partners and donors. Governments continue to focus on response related services, which see expansion across the country.</p>	<p>Increased investments are currently being made by the government in replicating proven models of prevention and response related and gender responsive child protection services in various parts of the country. Partners increasingly limit their investments to technical assistance for policy advocacy and investments in capacity building shift from trainings to systematic institutional capacity building. Significant focus is on routine and regular monitoring of child protection services, but majority or all of such monitoring is internal monitoring.</p>	<p>Government managed and funded national level scale-up of prevention and response related child protection services is underway through national programmes. All child protection services are subject to periodic/annual audits and external evaluations, and services often see changes based on findings of audits and external evaluations.</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	






Reporting Year 202____		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
		 System Building	 System Enhancement	 System Integration	 System Maturity	
 3. A continuum of services (spanning prevention and response)	3.2 Availability of Standard Operating Procedures and/or Protocols for child protection services, as outlined in statutory provisions.	<p>No SOPs or protocols exist that set out child protection roles, referral processes and procedures to be followed, or SOPs are developed by individual agencies for their own personnel and are not fully compliant with national legislation and international standards.</p>	<p>Comprehensive SOPs/protocols largely compliant with national legislation and international standards are currently being developed or already in place, including in humanitarian situations, but implementation of these SOPs/protocols is ad-hoc at best, often constrained by lack of adequate financial or human resources and limited capacities.</p>	<p>Comprehensive gender responsive and inclusive SOPs/protocols largely compliant with national legislation and international standards are available and are widely disseminated and effectively implemented in practice by most/all agencies/organizations while delivering child protection services.</p>	<p>Implementation of such SOPs/ protocols is institutionalized through formal case management systems and these SOPs/protocols are regularly reviewed and revised to adapt to emerging situations.</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	
	3.3 Availability of child protection case management and referral systems	<p>There are no standardized child protection case management and referral SOPs; case workers are often trained on agency-specific SOPs for case management and referrals, and case management approach to service delivery is practised in an ad-hoc manner.</p>	<p>Standard child protection case management SOPs have been established, but implementation of SOPs is weak/ad-hoc due to (a) absence of commonly agreed referral protocols between child protection/social welfare and other sectors (education, health, law enforcement, justice etc.) and (b) absence of a formal and nationally/ sub-nationally adopted training and supervision system for case workers and supervisors</p>	<p>Gender responsive and inclusive SOPs for child protection case management as well as multisectoral referral system have been established and formalized, and efforts are underway to train case workers and supervisors to increase the use of formal case management and referral system across the country.</p>	<p>A formal child protection case management and referral system is fully implemented and integrated through national case information management systems.</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	






MEASURING THE MATURITY OF CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS






A GUIDE ON HOW TO USE THE CPSS BENCHMARKS






Reporting Year 202____		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
		 System Building	 System Enhancement	 System Integration	 System Maturity	
 4. Minimum standards and oversight (monitoring and accountability mechanisms)	4.1 Availability of independent accountability and oversight mechanisms for child protection	Independent accountability and oversight mechanisms for child protection do not exist or do not cover child protection as part of their mandate	Accountability mechanisms have been established in-house within the lead ministry/agency responsible for child protection and are not independent.	Clear accountability and oversight systems have been established within the government, e.g. through hiring child protection experts, setting up inspection units, Management Information Systems and Quality Assurance Systems but lack independence	In addition to accountability and oversight systems have been established within the government, similar mechanisms are also set up independently, e.g., by national human rights institutions/ombudsperson, etc., through hiring child protection experts, setting up inspection units, Management Information Systems and Quality Assurance Systems, and undertake independent reviews of implementation of minimum standards.	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	
	4.2 Monitoring and oversight of minimum standards for child protection services	No minimum standards for child protection services are available, or minimum standards are available, including in humanitarian contexts, for some and not all child protection services.	Nationally adopted minimum standards for a range of prevention and response related child protection services are available, but there is an absence of formal mechanisms for monitoring and oversight of services.	Mechanism for monitoring and oversight of children's services based on nationally adopted minimum standards for a range of prevention and response related child protection services exists, but monitoring is ad-hoc and does not cover all services.	Regular monitoring and reporting of child protection services is carried out by national or local government to ensure national minimum standards are fully enforced.	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	

Reporting Year 202_____		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
		 System Building	 System Enhancement	 System Integration	 System Maturity	
 5. Human, financial and infrastructure resources	5.1 Availability of qualified social service workforce for child protection	<p>In the absence of comprehensive strategies to plan, develop and support the social service workforce for child protection, majority of workers undergo ad-hoc trainings, often on the job, that are supported by partners. There is an absence of normative framework for social service work, and licencing and accreditation systems for social service workers do not exist. There is no formal system of supervision of workers, and human resource information is not collected and used at national/sub-national levels.</p>	<p>The normative framework for social service work is being defined. Efforts are underway to introduce/strengthen social service workforce education with focus on knowledge and skills related to child protection and select government institutions provide on the job certified child protection trainings. Worker recruitment doesn't require following licencing and accreditation standards and there is an absence/lack of formal systems of supportive supervision. Efforts are underway to improve the human resource information/worker data for social service workers.</p>	<p>Normative frameworks for the workforce are well-defined. Trainings are streamlined through improved accreditation processes for pre- and in-service courses and hiring processes mandate consideration of qualifications of workers. A formal system of supportive supervision is in place but not uniformly implemented across the country. Efforts are underway to strengthen and scale the supervision system. Efforts are underway to enhance the capacity of the social service workforce on gender responsive social and behavioural change communication. A human resource information system for social service workers for child protection has been established and is being increasingly used to gather human resource related information.</p>	<p>A well-planned, -developed, and -supported social service workforce in place. Licencing and accreditation systems as well as supportive supervision systems are fully functional. Information of human resources is regularly gathered, analysed and used to refine/revise social service workforce strategies.</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	
	5.2 Financing of child protection services	<p>Child protection services are mostly funded by donors or provided by NGOs with minimal government funding.</p>	<p>Significant number of child protection services are funded through public finance, but are mostly response oriented and infrastructure related, e.g., establishment, running costs of residential care facilities, etc. Efforts are underway to track and analyse child protection budgets (e.g., using budget briefs) but there is absence of systematic analysis of public finance for child protection.</p>	<p>National/sub-national budgets increasingly support wide range of prevention and response related child protection services and there is a shift in focus from moving investments from infrastructure to human resources. There is a yearly review of child protection expenditures and budget adjustments to child protection policy requirements. Host of public finance tools (e.g., budget briefs, costing models, expenditure analyses, financial benchmarking) are used to influence public financing for child protection in a gender responsive and inclusive manner.</p>	<p>All/a vast majority of tertiary child protection services and some secondary child protection services are funded through national/sub-national budgets. Budgets and expenditures are regularly/annually tracked.</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	

Reporting Year 202____		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
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 6. Mechanisms for child participation and community engagement	6.1 Child friendly and gender-responsive legal procedures for children's access to justice.	<p>There are no child friendly and gender-responsive legal procedures for children to access justice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT</p>	<p>There are specialized law enforcement and court personnel (including judges and magistrates) for children in conflict with the law and in contact with the law (but no specialist court) who operate in a child friendly and gender-responsive manner (i.e. fully or mainly in compliance with international standards).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS</p>	<p>There are specialist courts (Juvenile Court / Family Court / Children's Court) for children in conflict with the law, operating with child friendly and gender-responsive procedures that comply fully or mainly with international standards, but not for children in contact with the law or vice versa. In some instances, while specialist courts for children in conflict with the law and/or contact with the law are established, they are not present across the country.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS</p>	<p>There are specialist courts for children in conflict with the law and contact with the law and its procedures are child friendly and gender-responsive (i.e., comply fully / largely with international standards).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS</p>	
	6.2 Independent complaints mechanisms exist for children	<p>There are no complaints mechanisms (independent or otherwise) for children who are refused or receive child protection services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT</p>	<p>Local service providers have a child complaints procedure in place to address complaints by or on behalf of children refused or receiving child protection services. Such procedures/mechanisms are not independent.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS</p>	<p>There is an independent body/authority at local level that accepts complaints by or on behalf of children refused or receiving child protection services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS</p>	<p>There is an independent complaints procedure that hears, reviews and responds to individual complaints from children about refusal to receive child protection services or about the child protection system or services received within stipulated timeframe.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS</p>	

Reporting Year 202____		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
		 System Building	 System Enhancement	 System Integration	 System Maturity	
 6. Mechanisms for child participation and community engagement	6.3 Child and adolescent empowerment for child protection	<p>Children who have received or are receiving prevention or response related child protection services have no access to forums (groups/ organizations) that works with them and enable them to express their views or experiences to service providers and government bodies.</p>	<p>Forums have been established at local level, largely through efforts of partners/NGOs, for children who have been/or are receiving prevention or response related child protection services to enable them to discuss issues and provide feedback to service providers; however, the establishment of such forums is not uniform across the country, and mechanisms to ensure children's views are effectively communicated to the government do not exist or are informal.</p>	<p>Government supports (in terms of human capacity and financially) such forums (e.g., children's groups established at local government/ community level for children who have been/or are receiving prevention or response related child protection services) to enable them to discuss issues and provide feedback to service providers; or those receiving child protection services in a gender responsive and inclusive manner. Efforts are underway to establish or strengthen existing mechanisms to ensure children's views are effectively communicated to the government at national/sub-national/local level.</p>	<p>Government supports (in terms of human capacity and financially) forums such as children's groups established at local government/ community level. A formal mechanism is in use through which national/sub-national/local government receives and responds to feedback received from children and children's groups receiving or who have received child protection services.</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	
	6.4 Existence of community-based mechanisms for child protection	<p>Community-based mechanisms exist but only in select parts of the country and are largely supported by partners/ NGOs. these mechanisms are often accountable only at community level or local level, but do not work with national or sub-national government bodies responsible for child protection.</p>	<p>Community based mechanisms are more widely available but continue to be led and supported by partners and NGOs. These mechanisms frequently engage with actors in the formal child protection system including at national and sub-national level but continue to function in an ad hoc manner and no formal structures for accountability/oversight exist.</p>	<p>Community based mechanisms are formally recognized, either as part of, or through its linkages with the public child protection system, and function according to standard terms of reference or written procedures and protocols, and in a gender responsive and inclusive manner. These mechanisms are increased supported by the government, both financially and with technical support. While formal accountability structures may be defined through terms of reference or written procedures and protocols, implementation of accountability structures continues to be weak.</p>	<p>Community based mechanisms are fully functional across the country per their applicability - urban/rural, and where necessary and as per their terms of reference/protocols/procedures. Functioning of these mechanisms is monitored through fully functional accountability mechanisms.</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	

Reporting Year 202____		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
		 System Building	 System Enhancement	 System Integration	 System Maturity	
 7. Robust data collection and monitoring system	7.1 Administrative data systems that routinely generate quality child protection data	<p>There is no system in place to gather routine data on child protection, or countries are still in the process of developing formalized systems in one or multiple sectors.</p>	<p>Core administrative data systems that capture child protection data exist at national level, with national coverage, but administrative data gathered by different sources are not based on a standard format/ data collection tool. Training, resources and capacity for those responsible for gathering data are limited and there is lack of institutionalized quality assurance processes and procedures. Data on child protection are not consistently disaggregated by sex, age and other domains most relevant to the issue (e.g. types of care; types of violence).</p>	<p>There is effort to integrate administrative data as part of a broader national statistical system, for example, to develop national metadata standards (or data dictionary) that defines the format/ structure of key data fields shared across multiple core systems). All child protection data are disaggregated at least by sex, while other disaggregation remains limited. There is institutionalized mechanisms and processes to ensure quality assurance.</p>	<p>Administrative data is as part of a broader national statistical system. Administrative data systems are inclusive; effectively monitoring that “no child is left behind”, as well as providing the data needed for systems to effectively h disparities where they exist. Data are regularly analysed or used for planning purposes, programme and policy design and monitoring the adequacy and effectiveness of programmes and policies or improving access to essential services.</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	
	7.2 Surveys	<p>There are no data collection plans and mechanisms in place to generate data on child protection.</p>	<p>Data collection plans and mechanisms are in place, but only a few child protection topics are covered, and data are collected irregularly.</p>	<p>Data on a range of child protection topics are collected at regular intervals, but inconsistent definitions and approaches are used to gather data. In addition to prevalence data, information is also collected on risk and protective factors, and data can be disaggregated by sex, age and other variables most relevant to the issue (e.g. types of care; family’s characteristics).</p>	<p>Data collection happens at regular intervals, using definitions that are in line with international standards or national legislations. Detailed and comprehensive ethical protocols are adopted and used. Data on non-household population, including street-connected children and other children outside of household, are also generated. Data are regularly analysed or used for monitoring the impact of programmes and policies. In addition to data on prevalence and on risks and protective factors, data on social and behavioural change are collected periodically, according to internationally comparable tools and methodology</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	

Reporting Year 202_____		Four Phases of Child Protection System Strengthening [SELECT ONE PHASE PER SUBDOMAIN]				EVIDENCE/ MOV
		 System Building	 System Enhancement	 System Integration	 System Maturity	
 7. Robust data collection and monitoring system	7.3 Data governance (coordination, oversight and secure management)	There is no legislation on data collection, transfer or sharing of data, usage of data, or there is no accountability in terms of the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors on the generation of data. There are no policies and procedures to ensure safety of all those involved in data collection processes and management and there are no data protection and confidentiality protocols.	Ad-hoc approval processes are in place for data collection, access to data, data sharing, and researcher requirements. Record-keeping systems are generally weak. Data management systems are not regularly updated. Certain safeguards are available within limited ministries and agencies to regulate who has access to child protection information and for what purpose.	There is legislation that generally encompass data to be collected and by whom but does not cover essential elements and standards of quality data collection and record keeping. Efforts are also underway to pass legislation which stipulates how data is to be transferred from operational sources to a centralised storage system, and what the data may be used for. Efforts are underway to develop policies and procedures to ensure safety of all those involved at all stages of the data collection process and management to minimize the inherent risks, including data protection and confidentiality protocols.	There is legislation on data collection, transfer of data, quality record-keeping, usage of data, and the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors. Policies and procedures ensure safe and secure data management (includes data sharing protocols, which also cover sharing data securely in order to minimize potential harm to children). Financial resources and organizational and staff capacity are ensured to enable key data collection and analyses. There is a centralised coordination body to oversee the system and ensure effective coordination of sharing information and data between the different agencies, with the national statistical offices playing a critical role in the coordination of any data collection system.	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 POINT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 POINTS	

Aggregate the points for each subdomain: _____

Maturity assessment for a country's child protection system:

- ☐ Score of 58 - 76 points: System maturity
- ☐ Score of 39 -57 points: : System integration
- ☐ Score of 20 -38 points: System enhancement
- ☐ Score of 1 - 19 point: System building

A country is considered having a mature child protection system if it scores 58 or above (maximum 76).

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CHILD PROTECTION

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