

Child Protection Annex

Child Protection Sub Working Group contacts:

UNHCR: Child Protection Unit: mdachcpu@unhcr.org; 069998393

UNICEF: Tatiana Danilescu; tdanilescu@unicef.org; 069643056

Identification of Children at Risk

During the RAC consolidation process, Relocation Case Managers may identify children and adolescents at risk who were not previously identified or who are not currently receiving services. If this occurs, it is important that prompt action is taken to ensure that children and adolescents are referred to needed services.

Risks identified may fall in two categories:

1. Risks related to relocation: These risks relate to the space, infrastructure, or services in the accommodation that a child needs. This may include, for example, a child who uses a wheelchair who needs an accessible accommodation, a newly identified unaccompanied or separated child, a child currently receiving MHPSS services inside their RAC who would like to continue receiving the same or similar services in their new RAC, or a teenager who currently accesses a Safe Space and needs similar services in their new RAC.

If risks related to relocation are identified, it is important to ensure that they are shared with the UNHCR Accommodation team (with the CP SWG co-leads in copy), who will be liaising with MLSP to identify appropriate accommodation. Additionally, if a child is currently enrolled in a local school, it is important that this is highlighted, so that, to the extent possible, an alternate accommodation option can be identified in the same location, to avoid the child needing to change schools.

2. Risks unrelated to relocation: These risks relate to any protection needs the child has but that are not directly related to the child's accommodation situation. This may include, for example, a child who does not have appropriate winter clothing and needs a referral for NFIs, a child who is not attending school and needs support identifying an appropriate educational option, a child victim of violence or abuse, including gender-based violence (GBV), a child at risk of early or forced marriage, a child who needs community-based PSS services, or a child who needs specialized therapy. Additionally, some families may choose to move out of a RAC into private accommodation. In this case, it is important, if children in these families require protection assistance, that appropriate referrals are made BEFORE the family moves out of their current RAC.

All children who are unaccompanied or separated should be referred to the CP SWG co-leads.

Referral of Children at Risk

In both of the above situations, it is the responsibility of the Relocation Case Manager to ensure that appropriate referrals are made. If the child's situation falls under [mandatory reporting requirements](#) (for example, the child does not have a caregiver or the child is being abused or neglected), an immediate referral must be made to the [Guardianship Authority](#). In parallel, please also refer the case to the CP SWG co-leads, to assist with follow-up. The CP SWG is also available to assist with referrals to the Guardianship Authority, if needed.

If a child needs a specific service, the [Child Protection Referral Pathways](#) should be used to identify the most appropriate service provider. Depending on the situation, the Relocation Case Manager may share the contact information of the referral service with the child's caregiver directly, or the Relocation Case Manager may support the family with the referral.

Support with the Relocation Process

Relocation can be stressful for anyone, and may be especially stressful for children and adolescents, who may not fully understand what is happening. There are many resources available to support children, both inside and outside of RACs. The Relocation Case Manager plays an important role in liaising with child friendly spaces and other child friendly services, to ensure that children have the support that they need. Additionally, for separated children, it will be important to support their caregiver in ensuring that the child's parents are informed of the relocation process and of their new address.

Definitions:

Children at risk: Children who are at heightened risk as a result of exposure to risks in the wider protection environment and/or risks resulting from individual circumstances. Children at risk include unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), as well as other children who are at risk of, or have experienced violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect.

Separated children: Children who are separated from both parents or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver but not necessarily from other relatives. They may therefore include children accompanied by other adult family members. For example, a child living with their aunt or grandfather is a separated child.

Unaccompanied children: Children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.