ANNEX 4: RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS PRIORITIZATION TOOL

Aim of the tool:

To facilitate the prioritization of risk and protective factors identified in context for project design, based on the following criteria: impact, feasibility and intersection with multiple types of harm.

Introduction:

Given the realities of humanitarian and fragile contexts, including limited funding, human resources, and access, in most cases, we may not be in the position to address all identified risk and protective factors. Therefore, risk and protective factors that are identified in context need to be prioritized. This tool is designed to help child protection actors with program design by facilitating a structured way of prioritizing risk and protective factors. This is done based on the triple criteria of impact, feasibility and intersection.

How to use the tool:

1. Prior to use of the tool, risk and protective factors associated with the harmful outcome(s) to be prevented should have been identified.[1] The factors should be identified by community members, caregivers and children and other local stakeholders. The main risk and protective factors should be ranked by how important the factor is to the harmful outcome to be prevented, as assessed by the community members, caregivers and children.

2. These main risk and protective factors are listed in the below Table 1 and Table 2 and given a score based on the impact and feasibility of addressing the factor (illustrative examples are provided in the table below).

    •   The score for impact (Table 1) is determined by the ranking children, caregivers and other community members gave of how important the factor was to the harmful outcome.

    •   The feasibility score (Table 2) can be determined by the actors and stakeholders who will be implementing the project design, using their local knowledge of what factors can be addressed in context given the situation, knowledge and resources available.

3. The resulting scores for impact and feasibility for each factor are plotted on the Prioritization of Risk and Protective Factors Chart (Chart 1). The factors scoring highest on both impact and feasibility (in the upper right quadrant of the chart) are the top priorities to be addressed.

4. Steps 1-2 are repeated for each type of harmful outcome assessed and plotted onto the same chart in Step 3 to identify the intersection of any factors. When the same risk or protective factor appears multiple times in the chart, these factors should be addressed as additional priorities as they have the greatest potential to prevent multiple types of harm to children.

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1   The following tool can be used for the identification of risk and protective factors: Identifying and Ranking Risk and Protective Factors: A Brief Guide. The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2021.

Table 1: Impact Prioritization. Rate the estimated impact that addressing the below factor will have on preventing [harmful outcome to children]. Multiple factors can have the same score.
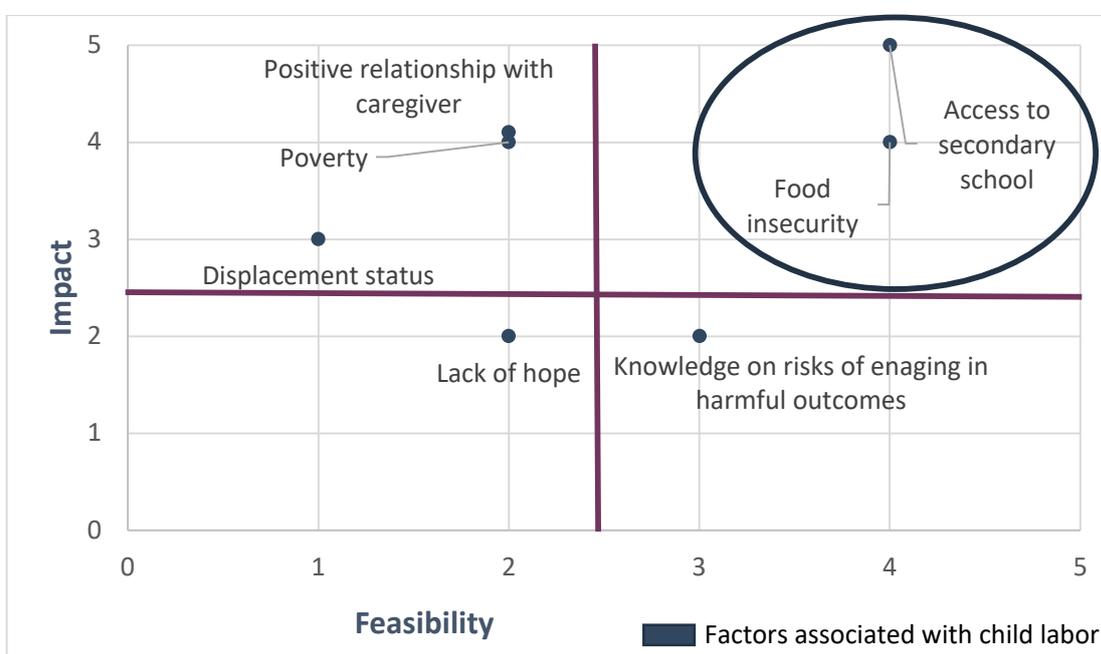
Risk Factors	No Impact	Small Impact	Some Impact	High Impact	Extremely Impactful
Example: Lack of hope for the future	1	2	3	●	5
Example: Poverty	1	●	3	4	5
Example: Displacement status	1	2	●	4	5
Example: Food insecurity	1	2	3	●	5
Etc.	1	2	3	4	5
Protective Factors	No Impact	Small Impact	Some Impact	High Impact	Extremely Impactful
Example: Access to secondary school	1	2	3	4	●
Example: Knowledge on risks of engaging in harmful outcome	1	●	3	4	5
Example: Positive relationship with caregiver	1	2	●	4	5
Etc.	1	2	3	4	5

Table 2: Feasibility Prioritization. Rate the estimated feasibility that the below factors are able to be addressed/influenced by the relevant humanitarian actor.

Risk Factors	Not feasible at all	Low feasibility	Moderate feasibility	High feasibility	Definitely feasible
Example: Lack of hope for the future	1	●	3	4	5
Example: Poverty	1	●	3	4	5
Example: Displacement status	●	2	3	4	5
Example: Food insecurity	1	2	3	●	5
Etc.	1	2	3	4	5

Protective Factors	Not feasible at all	Low feasibility	Moderate feasibility	High feasibility	Definitely feasible
Example: Access to secondary school	1	2	3	●	5
Example: Knowledge on risks of engaging in harmful outcome	1	2	●	4	5
Example: Positive relationship with caregiver	1	●	3	4	5
Etc.	1	2	3	4	5

Chart 1: Prioritization of Risk and Protective Factors (Example)

The factors appearing in the upper right of the chart are both assessed to have a large impact on preventing harm and are able to be addressed by the relevant actors. These should be prioritized in the project design. In this example, access to secondary school (protective factor) and food insecurity (risk factor) should be prioritized. The other factors can be addressed if there is further capacity.

Intersection across multiple harmful outcomes: This exercise can be repeated for each harmful outcome that is being addressed. For example, child labour and child marriage may be the most pressing harmful outcomes to be prevented. Then, the exercise described above will be repeated for child labour and child marriage separately. In this case, factors that are placed in quadrants 1 (upper left quadrant) and 3 (lower right quadrant) can also be prioritized if they are repeated in the charts for both harmful outcomes. In the example below, the protective factors of having knowledge about the risks of engaging in harmful outcomes were associated with both child marriage and child labour.Because this factor intersects both harmful outcomes, it should also be prioritized. However, if an intersecting factor scores low in feasibility and low in impact (lower right quadrant), it may not still not be strategic to address it.

Chart 2: Prioritization of Risk and Protective Factors for Multiple Types of Harm (Example)

Chart with axes Impact (y-axis, 0–5) and Feasibility (x-axis, 0–5).

Positive relationship with caregiver
Poverty
Knowledge on risk of child marriage
Displacement status
Lack of hope
Supportive peer relations
Access to secondary school
Food insecurity
Access to secondary school
Knowledge on risks of child labour

Factors associated with child labor
Factors associated with child marriage