

Overview of current frameworks for systems strengthening

Initial Observations

by
PTA/TRG





A Big Push (2002 and 2006)

The Protective Environment Framework

- *Governmental commitment to fulfilling protection rights.*
- *Legislation and enforcement.*
- *Attitudes, traditions, customs, behaviour and practices.*
- *Open discussion, including the engagement of media and civil society.*
- *Children's life skills, knowledge and participation.*
- *Capacity of those in contact with the child*
- *Basic and Targeted Services*
- *Monitoring and oversight.*

MAIN CONCLUSIONS of the Secretary-General's Study on VAC:

- *Addressing social exclusion (equity);*
- *Knowledge management and brokering;*
- *Integrating child protection into all sectors, including health and education, and into emergency work;*
- *Compelling need for capacity-building of governments and other partners;*
- *Work 'upstream' to obtain sustained results.*
- *Importance of partnerships at all levels, including with children themselves.*



UNICEF Global Strategy (2008)

5 main approaches for building a protective environment:

- (a) strengthening national protection systems;
- (b) supporting social change;
- (c) promoting child protection in conflict and natural disasters.
- (d) evidence-building and knowledge management, and
- (e) convening and catalysing agents of change



System Definitions

-examples- 1

DEFINITION : *Child protection systems comprise the set of laws, policies, regulations and services needed across all social sectors — especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice — to support prevention and response to protection related risks. These systems are part of social protection, and extend beyond it. At the level of prevention, their aim includes supporting and strengthening families to reduce social exclusion, and to lower the risk of separation, violence and exploitation (UNICEF GS 2008).*

DEFINITION : *a national child protection system is broadly defined as a comprehensive and interrelated approach to the protection of children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence and to the fulfilment of children's rights to protection (CPWG/Save UK 2010).*

DEFINITION : *A child protection system is a set of coordinated formal and informal elements working together to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of violence against children (WV 2011).*



System Definitions

-examples- 2

DEFINITION : *A national Child Protection System is the coordinated series of functions and actions undertaken by a range of duty bearers at all levels, family, community, provincial, national and international that combine to prevent, respond to and mitigate, the multiple child protection risks children face (UNHCR 2010).*



System Components -examples- 1

Child Protection System is comprised of a collection of inter-related, multi-sectoral and multi-level components that include:

- Coordination
- Knowledge and Data
- Legal and Policy
- Prevention and Response Services
- Capacities
- Advocacy and Awareness Raising (UNHCR 2010)

- Structures
- Functions
- Capacities
- Continuum of Care
- Process of Care
- Accountability (UNICEF 2010)



System Components -examples-2

- Laws, Policies, Standards and Regulations
 - Services and Service delivery mechanisms
 - Capacities
 - Coordination, Cooperation and Collaboration mechanisms
 - Accountability
 - Circle of Care
 - Children's resilience life skills and participation (WV 2011)
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- Policy and Legal Environment
 - Child Welfare Service Models and the Practice Environment
 - Education and Training
 - Outcome and Performance Measures (USAID 2009)



System Components

-examples-2

- Child Protection laws and policies
- Meaningful coordination across government and between sectors at different levels
- Knowledge and data on child protection issues and good practices
- Effective regulation, minimum standards, and oversight
- Preventive and responsive services
- A skilled child protection workforce
- Adequate funding
- Children's voices and participation
- An aware and supportive public (Save 2010)

- FUNCTIONS (**what** the system does : 1-case decision making and 2- actions to support system performance)
- STRUCTURES (**how** the system is constructed) (UNICEF 2011)
- VISION/OBJECTIVES (**where** the system intends to move to)
- PROCEDURES (**when** it does what it does and how it does it)



Strategic Actions for CP system strengthening

- Incorporate child protection into national and decentralized planning processes, including social protection strategies.
- Ensure that social protection reform contributes to the achievement of child protection outcomes.
- Promote justice for children within the Rule of Law agenda.
- Strengthen coordination amongst child protection system actors.
- Strengthen the social welfare sector.
- Support birth registration (UNICEF GS 2008).

- Strengthen the capacity of families to protect and care for OVC by prolonging the lives of parents and providing economic, psychosocial and other support.
- Mobilize and support community-based responses.
- Ensure OVC access to essential services for them and their caregivers, child-friendly justice and other services.
- Improved policy and legislation and channelling resources to families and communities.
- Raise awareness at all levels through advocacy and social mobilization to create a supportive environment for children and families (UNICEF HIV/AIDS Framework 2011)



Strategic Actions for CP system strengthening 2

- Enabling environment and advocacy
- Community networks, linkages, partnerships and coordination
- Resources and capacity building
- Community activities and service delivery
- Organizational and leadership strengthening
- M&E and planning (the GlobalFund 2010)



Categorical Interventions

OVC/MVC/CABA (and so on)

- Seeks to bridge health care system and social development/protection system;
- Emphasis – dual focus on developing community services and building workforce capacity to provide quality services
- Provides models (public education/awareness) for addressing stigma; other child protection and welfare issues have stigma/are embedded in social norms
- Incorporates models of family support/psycho-social programming
- Tends to emphasize community based workers, volunteer and non-volunteer (PSW training and support)



Categorical Interventions

CP

- This category often includes elements of a system (e.g., policies, laws, education) and players (e.g., family, extended family, community, government).
- Evidence suggests disconnect between “informal” and “formal” systems; much to be gained by linking two more productively
- In practice, the CP system approach often ends up deploying means-tested and conditional benefits such as cash transfers;
- Introduction of psycho-social practices is difficult -- cash benefit schemes often crowd out other types of services; means many of staff administrative.

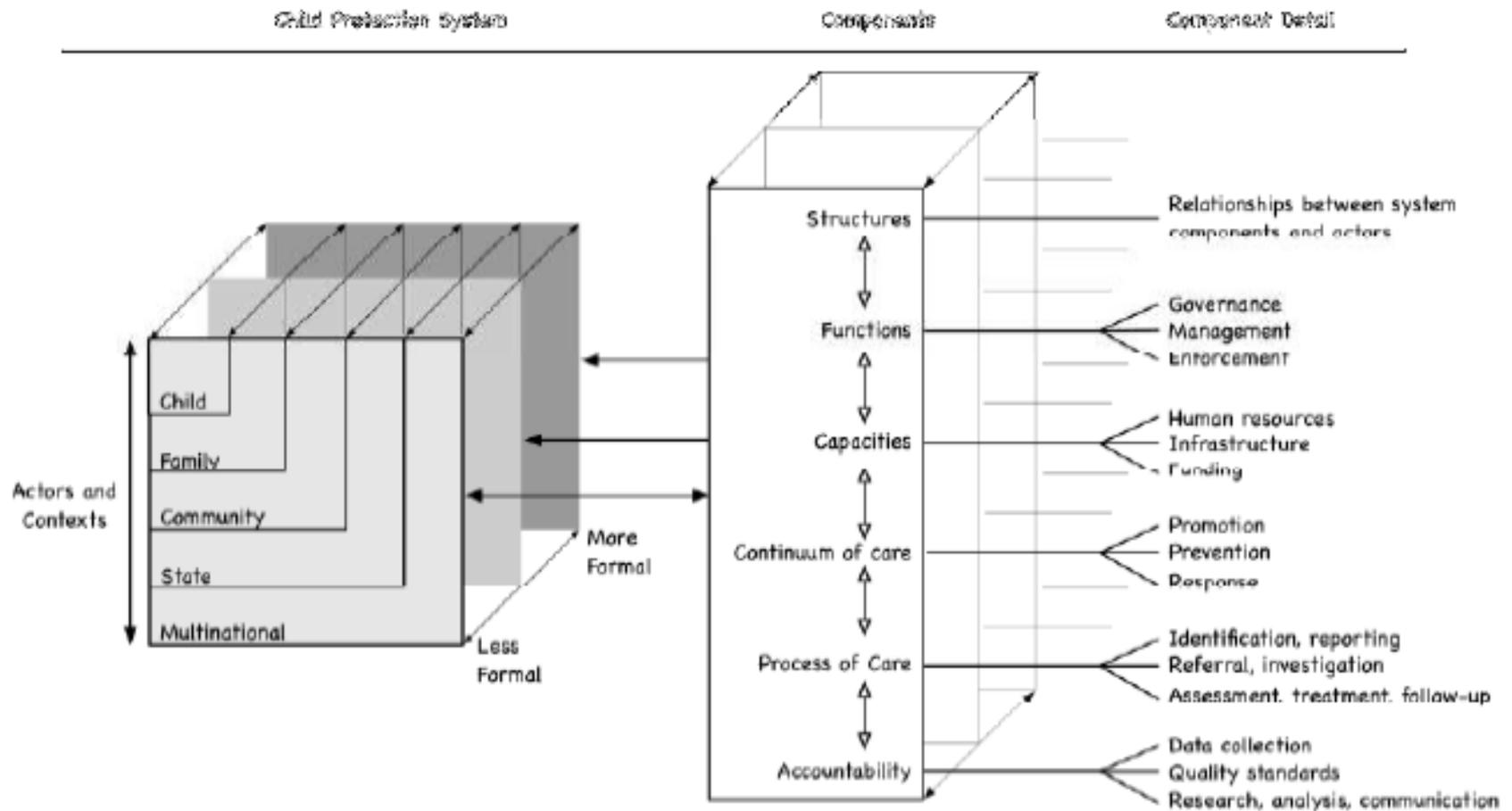


Categorical Interventions

CPIE

- Emergency context puts special pressures on systems – risk factors go up, safeguard measures often breakdown
- Systems approach may be more important in these situations – holistic view of child protection
- Capacity-building around local and community mechanisms and grassroots actions;
- Focus on urgent care models such as psychosocial, family tracing, counseling and trauma prevention and intervention, necessary for all categories of programs and services in an emergency environment

Diagram



Diagram

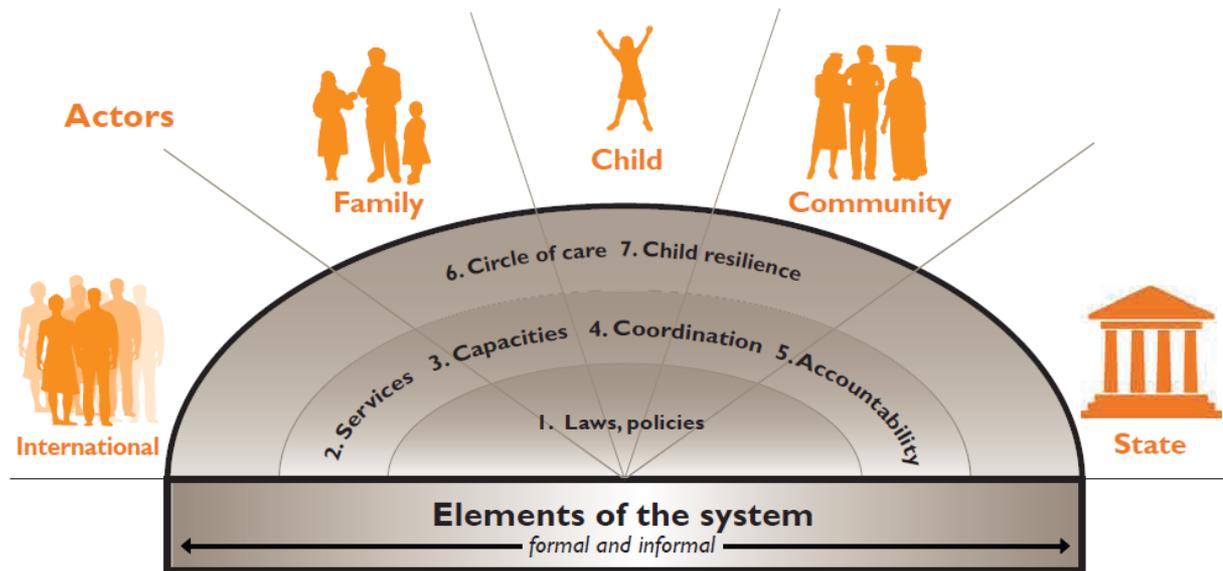
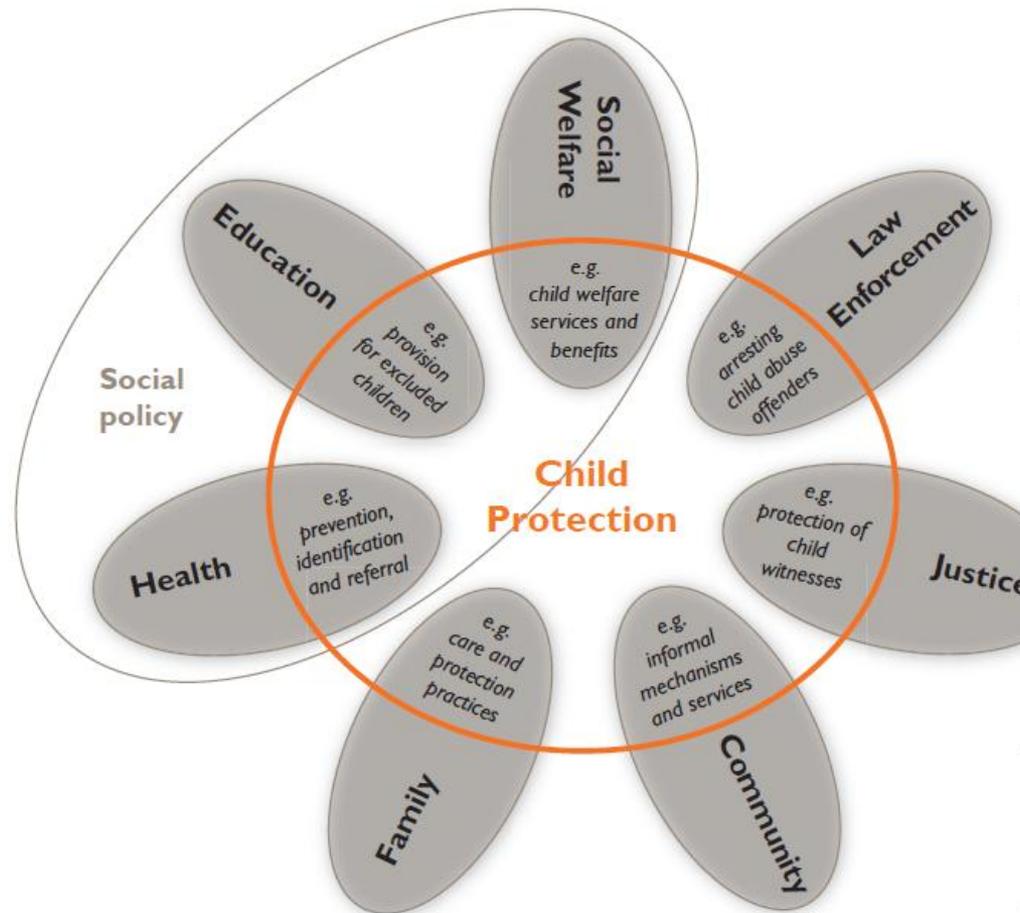


Diagram -- coordination



Diagram



Strengthening the Social Welfare Workforce

Planning the Workforce

- Adopt a strategic approach to planning the social welfare workforce
- Collect and share HR data and promote data-driven decision making
- Improve recruitment, hiring, and deployment practices and systems that take into account urban, peri-urban, and rural areas and decentralization plans
- Build alliances to strengthen leadership and advocacy among stakeholders

Supporting the Workforce

- Develop or strengthen systems to improve and sustain social welfare workforce performance
- Develop tools, resources and initiatives to improve job satisfaction and retention
- Support professional associations in their efforts to enhance the professional growth and development of the social welfare workforce

Country specific context, including social welfare, justice and child protection systems, local culture, legislation, labor market, economy

Developing the Workforce

- Align education and training for the social welfare workforce with effective workforce planning efforts
- Ensure curricula incorporate both local/indigenous knowledge as well as international best practices for improving the well-being of children and families
- Strengthen faculty and teaching methods
- Provide broad range of professional development opportunities for workers