**DIPLOMA IN CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES**

**ASSISGNMENT (1).**

1. Discuss any five of the risks that children are exposed to when in a humanitarian crisis citing ways as a professional you will combat the same.

**What is a humanitarian crisis?**

A crisis is an event or series of events that represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security or well-being of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area and where affected populations cannot withstand the negative consequences by themselves. Armed conflicts, epidemics, famine, natural disasters, environmental emergencies and other major harmful events may involve or lead to a humanitarian crisis.17 A crisis can arise suddenly with no notice (earthquakes) or with little notice (cyclones and hurricanes), or can develop gradually (droughts). Regardless of the type of humanitarian crisis, survivors are left in urgent need of life-saving assistance such as shelter, food, water and health care. In some cases, crises have no clear start, end or recognizable recovery phase. Some of the world’s largest crises are chronic and protracted, moving in and out of crisis phases as conditions worsen and improve over the years.

**Who is a child?**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties define a ‘child’ to be any person below the age of 18. Children include infants, adolescents and young adults, and are a diverse population that mirrors the multiplicity of society in language, culture, religion and economic status.

In any humanitarian crisis, harm is inflicted to human being around the affected areas where the crisis occurs. Humanitarian crisis is an inquisitive occurrence that are threatening in terms of safety, health, or wellbeing of a community or a group of people. This crisis can either be a complex emergency, man-made or natural disasters. When this kind of events occur, the group of people of communities around the affected area suffer the consequences without choice but to adhere to the situation by losing lives, properties and many other things do happen and changes the life of people from better to worse. Therefore, the most affected are the minorities such as women and the children because inferiority complex in them.

Referring to the above question, below are the risks that children are exposed to when in a humanitarian Crisis.

**Child labor:**

Children always face the risk of child labor in any humanitarian crisis that happened. This child labor is heightened because all services that may lead to child development are disrupted, families need extra incomes, children may become detached from their caregivers and children may find themselves needing or under pressure to earn income.

Increase in the number of school dropout and working directly in a company’s value chain, or informal economy in the communities where companies operate as a result of the humanitarian crisis.

**Hazardous child labor:** During a humanitarian crisis, young people and children take risks of jobs for economic reasons. Business can be vigilant to ensure that children over the minimum age of 18 are not employed to do work that is inherently dangerous and attempts to create appropriate work opportunities.

For example, in South Sudan where most of the areas where affected by crisis, the group of people affected are the children. There are Internally Displaced People within the Country who are confined in the United Nations Missions in South Sudan, though they are provided with other humanitarian aids but still need extra needs like money to support themselves with other basic needs hence making children under the age of 18 to do heavy labor jobs such as carrying of heavy load of commodities of fifty kilograms which affects their health. But yet they have to do it because some lost their parents and no one is there to support them, others have one parent who might be an elderly and need to get supplementary food hence these force children into getting employed in hazardous labor.

**Separation from family:**

Separation could happen in situations of acute crises, but also when family members

are unable to support themselves and thus need to move for work. Children might be left unattended, or children themselves might move for work.

Businesses could help by resuming business operations, creating employment opportunities, paying salaries on time or making advance payments where possible, and allowing employees time to care for their families. Care should be taken to avoid allowing children of employees on workplace premises unless appropriate safe space and safeguards are provided, to avoid accidents and the risk of child labor. When children of employees become separated, compassionate leave can be provided to locate them

**Abduction, trafficking and exploitation:**

Smuggling gangs take advantage of the chaos caused by crises to abduct and traffic children and young people. Businesses such as hotels, airlines and transport and logistics companies can become a conduit for exploitation and trafficking. Couple to this abduction as well expose children to child Army. They can be manipulated and influenced to become soldiers and be given big or ranks in the in the Army so children tend to accept since they have no choice because if the refuse they can be killed.

An example in South Sudan in the Western part of the Country where the rebels of the Lord Resistance Army abducted children and were forced to become soldiers and told if they kill they will be Heroes, these made children to become enemies to their own relatives. They come and kill people in the nearby centers in the name of becoming Heroes. The same happened in the recent crisis in 2013 to 2016 in the same region where the Government of the Country was involved in a crisis where many children lost ways to their parents and abducted and trained to be soldiers in the name of being given high ranks and a lot of money. Many lost lives when taken to the front lines for wars and looting of people’s properties. In this situation when the ‘’claimed’’ Peace Agreement was signed, World Vision International in South Sudan decided to initiate a project where some children were served out of the dangers they are facing to come and go back to school.

**Lack of Food, and Basic needs**

Humanitarian Crisis made many children end up on the streets as baggers due to death of parents who could have supported them, lack of food and basic needs such as clothes, shelter over their heads. Many drop out of school because they cannot afford to get all the necessary requirements, they can’t attend classes in an empty stomach hence making them to remain out of schools but rather on the streets, become robbers, thieves because they need to eat and acquire some basic essentials to support themselves. For the girls they end up getting marriage at an early age facing challenges during pregnancies and in the process of labor others die as well as acquiring Sexual transmitted diseases. An example in South Sudan where most children due the crisis are exposed to these kind of risks many die because of lack of parental care who can take care of them, support them in school, provide food for them and other basic needs. Organizations like World Vision, United Nations Children fund and many others tried to create child friendly spaces to make street children take their time in these places to play so as not to be involved in hazards that may affect them and their lives but still the issue of food is a challenge to others. Hence making children most Vulnerable in areas affected by Humanitarian crisis.

**Humanitarian crises affect children, societies and companies on many levels**

The economic impact of disasters is well documented. In 2015 alone, natural disasters resulted in US$123 billion in economic losses worldwide. For business, crises such as natural disasters and conflicts can, in the short term, disrupt operations and supply chains, destabilize markets and suppress most areas of formal economic activity. Crises can also lead to a decline in workforce

productivity, and revenue loss, Agricultural sectors declines with no hope of recovery because most of the areas in the affected areas are occupied by disastrous people that damage the system. In the longer term, businesses have to cope with the lasting consequences in terms of skills development and workforce capabilities as a result of children being out of school for extended periods and without access to adequate health care, nutrition and protection.

In a nut shell, humanitarian crisis remains dangerous to children since they are the most Vulnerable and also inferior, many ended up with no choice but rather be affected in the process. Therefore, there is need to call for support and children protection by the international communities to rescue children in times of crisis because these are the future of every nation but when affected the whole generation as well is affected

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***17*** *Risk reduction and emergency preparedness, WHO six-year strategy for the health sector and*

*community capacity development, WHO, 2007, <http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/*

*preparedness/emergency\_preparedness\_eng.pdf>.*

***19*** *Not all work done by children should be classified as child labor that must be prevented. The term*

*‘child labor’ is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and*

*their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. In the context of business*

*operations and supply chains, however, it is important that children below the applicable minimum*

*age, as specified in national legislation and international standards, are not employed.*

***20*** *<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/Youthinaction/C182-Youth-orientated/*

*worst forms\\/lang--en/index*

1. Sexual exploitation as well as offering sex in exchange for favors is a rampant vice for underage girls in a crisis. As a practitioner in child protection, how are you likely to handle this Sexual exploitation**.**

Any actual or attempted abuse of position of vulnerability, differential power or trust, for sexualpurposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexualexploitation of another. “Sexual exploitation” is a broad term, which includes a number of acts described below, including “transactional sex”, “solicitation of transactional sex” and “exploitative relationship”[[1]](#footnote-1).

In otherward it is the use of a minority group of people to be used for exchange of goods or services by verbal conduct, physical touches or any use of sign language. For example, this is done by people who have power and authority so they have the choice to decide on what they need.

**Forms of sexual exploitation and abuse**

**Sexual Harassment1** is a form of sex discrimination. It includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. These constitute sexual harassment when conducted explicitly or implicitly affects an individual’s employment; unreasonably interferes with an individual’s work performance; or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.[[2]](#footnote-2) This is the mostly done in work places by line mangers or supervisors to cover up law performant or just for the purpose of wasting time because they have power over everything. On the other hand, this affects the performance of a staff hence leading to loss of jobs. This also happens in School with lecturers or teacher to get marks on exams.

**Sexual Assault2** is any action in which, through pressure (including the use of drugs or alcohol), threat or force, the offender subjects the victim to sexual touch that is unwanted and offensive. Sexual assault can range from unwanted touching and groping to battery, attempted rape, rape, and sexual torture.[[3]](#footnote-3) this mostly happen in crisis where girls and women are abducted and used for sex by force and at the end remained wives of the rebels or those involved in creating the crisis.

**Sexual Violence** is a form of gender-based violence. Sexual violence includes sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. It refers to any act, attempt, or threat of a sexual nature that results, or is likely to result, in physical, psychological, and emotional harm[[4]](#footnote-4). Sexual violence is any non-consented action of a sexual nature, including rape, attempted rape, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Sexual violence is a subset of the broader category of gender-based violence (GBV). GBV is an umbrella term for any harm that is perpetrated against a person’s will that results from power. inequities that are based on gender roles. Violence may be physical, sexual, psychological, economic or socio-cultural[[5]](#footnote-5). This is mostly practiced at family levels with especially those who are illiterate of their rights and mostly these are women. Example of these women are school drop outs or those who have never gone to school or attended basic education or trainings regarding their rights as women in the communities. Men tend to take advantage of that in case they rejected community leaders or close relatives are summoned to come and talk over it which create shame on women and they tend to adhere to act.

**Rape**. Penetration – even if slightly – of any body part of a person who does not consent with a sexual organ and/or the invasion of the genital or anal opening of a person who does not consent with any object or body part. (UN Glossary on SEA).

**Sex with a minor.** Sexual penetration of a person younger than 18. Sexual penetration includes(s) the penetration of thevagina, anus, or mouth by the penis or other body part, and also includes the penetration of thevagina or anus by an object. Sexual penetration of a child is prohibited regardless of the age of7majority or consent locally and is considered as sexual abuse. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defense. This mostly done to children who have no consent of the act but forced by an adult into it and this creates harm and inflict pain to the child leading to death, sexual transmitted diseases and many others.

**Transactional sex.** The exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex, including sexual favours other formsof humiliating, degrading or exploitative behavior. This includes any exchange of assistance that isdue to beneficiaries of assistance (UN Glossary on SEA). This form of sexual exploitation is mostly practiced by those in power. For example, in South Sudan, the majority of those in power (the government) and have authority over everything including high institutional bodies operating in the Country. When a lady applies for a job, they said if you accept me I will give you that job. So because they need the job they tend to accept to use in order to get a job hence exposing them to diseases or loss of dignity and respect among others.

**Exploitative relationship.** A relationship that constitutes sexual exploitation, i.e. any actual or attempted abuse of a position ofvulnerability, differential power or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profitingmonetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.[[6]](#footnote-6)

**Trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation.** The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or 8 of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth above (e.g. threat or the use of force or other forms of coercion etc.).[[7]](#footnote-7) for example in Uganda currently the exporting of humans in the name of Jobs abroad with high pays in the Arab World places like Dubai, Jordon, Dakar and many more Countries. Women and girls are forced to become sex workers instead of what they were told to go and do. Their travel documents and phones are taken away from them so that they will not be able to communicate to their relatives about what they are going through.

Victim and Survivor. The term victim4 denotes a person who has experienced a violation of domestic or international law or a crime committed by another person under domestic or international law. The term survivor describes the person who was victimized is also someone who shows resistance, action, ingenuity, and inner strength. We combine these two terms victim/survivor to acknowledge that those who experience violations and abuse are also active agents who challenge the abuse, abusers, and systems that perpetuate violence[[8]](#footnote-8)

**Who is affected**?

Sexual violence in crisis-affected settings and communities and in most settings around the global involve male perpetrators committing violent acts against females. However, men and boys may also be at risk of sexual violence, particularly in conflict settings and when they are subjected to detention or torture. While all women in crisis-affected settings are susceptible to sexual violence, adolescent girls are exceptionally vulnerable as they are often targeted for sexual exploitation and rape. In addition, sexual violence, even if exclusively perpetrated against women and girls, often affects and undermines the entire community including the fathers, brothers, husbands and sons of the survivor. It is important to recognize that anyone can be a survivor of sexual violence (women, girls, boys and men of all ages) and to ensure that services are available and accessible to all.[[9]](#footnote-9)

**The perpetrators of sexual exploitation**

Perpetrators may be others who have been displaced by the conflict or disaster; members of other clans, villages, religious groups or ethnic groups; military personnel; rebel forces; humanitarian workers from UN agencies or NGOs; members of the host population; the community; or family members. Perpetrators may also be male or female. In short, anyone can perpetrate sexual violence. Rape may be used as a strategy of warfare to intimidate and traumatize a population, in which case the perpetrators are enemy combatants, but perpetrators of opportunistic rape can be anyone acting with impunity in the climate of lawlessness that accompanies armed conflict and after natural disasters.

**When exploitation happens**

Sexual violence can happen anytime during displacement, including prior to fleeing one’s home area, during flight, while in the country of asylum and during repatriation and reintegration. It can occur in crisis-affected communities after a natural disaster, even among those not displaced from their homes. In addition, sexual violence frequently escalates in displaced settings as normal social structures are disrupted. Immediate prevention and response measures must be adapted to suit these different circumstances.

Inter Action, a united voice for global change developed code of conduct against sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) is a set of agency guidelines that promotes respect by staff of the agency for fundamental human rights, social justice, human dignity and respect for the rights of women, men and children. An enforceable CoC is a critical component of humanitarian accountability to beneficiaries. The IASC Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse developed these six core principles for inclusion in UN and NGO codes of conduct[[10]](#footnote-10)

* Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers constitute acts of gross misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment; this happens with many humanitarian workers who use their power and position upon women and girls who are vulnerable of their present situation. In 2017 in South Sudan, some humanitarian workers for OXFARM lost their jobs due to this act.
* Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defence; this is currently happening especially in South Sudan where girl child is forced to Marry an elderly person for the shake of wealth.
* Exchange of money, employment, goods, or services for sex, including sexual favours or other forms of humiliating, degrading, or exploitative behaviour, is prohibited. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries;
* Sexual relationships between humanitarian workers and beneficiaries are strongly discouraged since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics. Such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of humanitarian aid work;
* Where a humanitarian worker develops concerns or suspicions regarding sexual abuse or exploitation by a fellow worker, whether in the same agency or not, s/he must report such concerns via established agency reporting mechanisms;
* Humanitarian workers are obliged to create and maintain an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse and promotes the implementation of their code of conduct. Managers at all levels have particular responsibilities to support and develop systems that maintain this environment

**Prevention of sexual exploitation**

It is critical to prevent sexual violence because it is a human rights violation. Survivors may suffer from depression and anxiety, attempt/complete suicide, contract HIV or other STIs, become pregnant, or may be shunned by their families or communities. The following are some possible ways handle exploitation against women.

* Ensure women, men, adolescents and children have access to basic health services, including sexual and RH services;
* Design and locate health facilities to enhance physical security, in consultation with the population and in particular with women and adolescents;
* Consult with service providers and patients about security in the health facilities;
* Locate separate male and female latrines and washing areas in the health facility in a secure location with adequate lighting at night, and ensure doors lock from the inside;
* Ensure all ethnic subgroup languages are represented among service providers or interpreters are available;
* Hire female service providers, community health workers, program staff and interpreters;
* Inform service providers of the importance of maintaining confidentiality and have them sign and abide by a code of conduct against sexual exploitation and abuse; and
* Ensure that codes of conduct and reporting mechanisms on sexual exploitation and abuse by health staff are in place, as well as relevant punitive measures to enforce them.[[11]](#footnote-11)

Social Context and Challenges In Addressing Sexual Exploitation Against Women And Girls

* **Low status of women and girls.** Women are always considered tobeinferior or group of people with low or less mind in communities. This increase their state of Vulnerability to abuse as they are generally at the very lowest of the social hierarchy in the pacific. They are considered not to have a choice or opinion and not to question any man Authority. In this same scenario, girls below the age of 18 may have problems in rejecting sexual advances and are less likely to realise that they are being abused or exploited.
* **Silence and shame around violence against women.** Women are subordinated of their voice in the Community leading to Culture of silence around many gender issues this include Violence and sexual abuse. They are not allowed to speak out about sexual violence and abuse since its viewed negatively as it brings shame on the Victim, the family and the perpetrator in the eyes of the Community.
* **Sexual double standard.** In almost all Pacific island cultures, there is a social acceptance that men and boys will be sexually active and roam freely while girls are expected to be virgins, dress modestly and avoid attracting unwanted attention. Thus when a girl is sexually abused, the blame is often placed on her for attracting the attention rather than on the abuser (Laqeretabua, Naidu, & Bhagwan Rolls, 2009, pp. 23-24). Therefore, most communities encourage descent dressing to avoid being sexually harassed.
* **Marriage practices and age of consent.** The practice of bride-price is cited as a key factor in perpetuating violence against women in the Placatory. Frequently, wives believe that they must put up with violence as leaving the marriage would involve repaying the bride-price. The modern practice of paying the bride-price in cash reinforces the view that a husband has “bought” his wife and has property rights (AusAID 2008, p 17). 89. Marriage at a young age is common, which can put girls at high risk of physical abuse. The legal age of marriage is usually between 14-16 for girls and higher for boys.
* **Economic dependence and poverty.** The believe that gals are not allowed to go to school, has increased the risk of sexual abuse or violence. Economic dependence and poverty put women and girls at risk of sexual violence. Women’s reliance on a male breadwinner is seen as a major deterrent to complaining about violence or leaving her husband (AusAID 2008, p 17). Poverty is a major contributing factor to sexual exploitation of children in the Africa, including child neglect due to economic pressure on parents; pressure on children to earn money; and limited opportunities for education and work

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**Recommendations for strengthening sexual exploitation Prevention Efforts**

* Adopt a women-centred, rights-based approach to ending violence against women. Raise public awareness that all forms of violence against women are discrimination and a breach of women’s human rights, including through media and education programmes. This should include disseminating the findings of studies on violence against women, such as the Family Health and Safety studies.[[12]](#footnote-12)
* Support initiatives which address the norms, attitudes and behaviours that underlie violence against women. Focus on the positive aspects of culture and work to prevent culture from being used as a convenient excuse for violence against women and girls.
* Develop government-led national action plans for eliminating violence against women which include measures to prevent violence against women, provide protection, support and rehabilitation services to victims and punish offenders. These should contain clear results to be achieved, indicators, strategies to achieve these results, timeframe, budget, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Plans should be based on consultation, including with government ministries, NGOs, women’s organisations, legal experts and the donor community (SPC, 2009, p. 164; CEDAW Committee [Cook Islands], 2007).
* Strengthen partnerships with actors/sectors which have not traditionally been involved in addressing violence against women, such as churches and faith–based organisations and traditional chiefs.
* Strategies for engaging with faith-based organisations could include: encouraging progressive interpretation of religious texts; initiatives which address sexual harassment and violence against women that occurs within religious organisations; mobilise resources of religious organisations for service provision (e.g. shelters); involving religious leaders in campaigns; and promoting gender awareness in educational institutes run by religious groups (UNSG, p. 22).[[13]](#footnote-13)
* Engage men and boys in violence prevention. The benefits of involving men and boys include: creating a large-scale and broad social consensus on issues that have previously been marginalised as “women’s issues”; men who seek to preserve male power and privilege would be increasingly marginalised; ability to mobilise resources within and social and economic institutions that are controlled by men (UNSG, 2009, p. 10). Strategies for engaging with men and boys can include: challenging male assumptions about gender roles; working with media to debunk gender stereotypes and project more positive ideas of masculinity; increasing men’s awareness of human rights and laws on domestic violence; cultivating high-level male champions on violence against women UNSG, 2009, p. 24)
* Use the education sector to address violence against women, such as developing curriculum materials promoting the right of women and girls to be free from gender violence and training teachers to support students experiencing/at risk of violence. Programs for girls could focus on empowerment, building self-confidence and developing negotiation skills.
* Promote gender equality and women’s human rights, compliance with international agreements, and greater female participation in government. Support economic empowerment of women through equality in land rights, property inheritance rights and income-generating opportunities.

In a conclusion, women in a humanitarian crisis must be considered as human beings who have right and choice over what is affecting them. Communities should be made aware that every human being has the right over what distresses them. Sexual abuse or violation must not be encouraged only on one side of the gender but it has to be out of consent of the opposite sex but not be inflicted with pain of force into one another because its every once right to have sex but at a right age with a person who has sense of what he or she is doing.

1. Taking a case study approach, discuss the importance of community involvement in protection of children during a crisis

According to UNICEF, UNICEF uses the term ‘child protection’ to refer to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage.[[14]](#footnote-14)

**Abuse:** A deliberate act of ill treatment that can harm or is likely to cause harm to a child's safety, well-being, dignity and development. Abuse includes all forms of physical, sexual, psychological or emotional ill treatment.[[15]](#footnote-15)

**Violence:** All forms of physical or mental fierceness, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.[[16]](#footnote-16)

**Exploitation:**

Is act where people are treated dishonestly or using resources in order to gain from their hard labor or hard work. For example, using the natural resources within to build a city out of those resources.

In order wards Exploitation refers to the use of children for someone else’s advantage, satisfaction or form, often resulting in unfair, painful and harmful treatment of the child. These activities are to the damage of the child’s physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development. This covers influence, misuse, abuse, victimization, oppression and ill treatment. [[17]](#footnote-17)

 Labor exploitation. ...

 Domestic servitude. ...

 Forced marriage. ...

 Forced criminality. ...

 Child soldiers. ...

 Organ harvesting.

According to The Child Act of the Government of South Sudan, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is defined as: “a human being under the Age of 18 years.”[[18]](#footnote-18)

Community plays significant roles to children’s lives and growth in terms of the environment in which the child grows and develop. Therefore, it is important to understand the meaning of community and different actors within a community.

A community is a group of people who are recognised within or outside an area sharing common cultural, religious or social features, backgrounds and interests that form collective identity with shared goals.

Community involvement in child protection is very important. Community-based child protection groups can:

* Promote better understanding of the different reasons why girls and boys move, and where they move to, what they do and or who they visit at a time.
* Provide awareness raising and education at places of origin, to prevent unsafe migration and to ensure safe migration. Provision of basic education by the community help children to understand cultural norms the dos and don’ts.
* Promote protective networks and act as positive intercessors. They intercede in any challenge facing children within the communities.
* Monitor and protect the situation of migrant children in local communities.

Sexual abuse and exploitation is associated with a complex combination of factors, including the socio-economic and political context. Many factors are linked to cultural attitudes and beliefs, including those around power and inequality related to age, gender, ethnicity, disability, class, HIV status and social status.[[19]](#footnote-19) The process of setting up community-based child protection groups, as well as the direct awareness-raising work that such groups subsequently undertake, can have a positive impact on community attitudes and awareness. For example for the children to be familiar with their families and the care givers, to be safe, educated and fed, not to be detained all these act as the responsibilities of the community leaders.

One of the key roles of community-based child protection groups is to ensure that the issue of child protection is visible, and that children and families know where they can go for help if they experience or become aware of sexual abuse.[[20]](#footnote-20) For example report issues related to abuse to their parents as soon as possible as well as reporting to the community leaders. In South Sudan context, group of Community elders group sit where they can be located and issues are reported immediately the culprit will be apprehended and punished to teach others lessons.

Community-based child protection groups therefore have the potential to act as a focal point within a community – a place for children and parents to safely report cases of abuse, a place to seek help, a group to provide response and rehabilitation support, and a place to resolve cases, whether through formal reporting, for example in South Sudan, community leaders act more than parents in protecting children. Due to the continuous crisis that is taking place in the Country and children become victims of all forms of child abuse, community leaders take full responsibility to fight for the rights of children with the help of other international Organizations like UNICEF, UNHCR, World Vision international, War child and many others.

An important outcome of establishing community-based child protection groups is to increased awareness among the adults within a community of their own responsibility for protecting children. Their best interest to be every ones’ priority.

Engaging with communities at the grassroots level can help address the real causes of sexual exploitation and abuse, and increase vigilance at the community level. An empowered community group can be very influential in changing community practices and putting in place prevention systems. For example, block leaders, Local chairpersons take responsibility of being care takers with rules and regulations regarding child protection.

A key role for community prevention work is to empower children to better protect themselves without giving them sole responsibility for their own protection. Community-based child protection groups, including children, are facilitating this role through:

* awareness-raising activities with children to highlight risks in the local community, and through finding practical ways to minimise them
* informing children of how to identify potential abusers in a community
* working with local social workers to identify the information needed by children, and in finding engaging ways to get messages across to children
* highlighting places that children can go to for help, including an accessible reporting procedure
* supporting life-skills training around sexual relationships and HIV and AIDS, and in leading resilience-building activities

Community-based child protection groups can also support rehabilitation and response of children who experience sexual exploitation and abuse, by: supporting activities to build resilience and supporting rebuilding of livelihoods. Give example by providing them resources to go to school, developmental activities such as playing at the child friendly spaces to keep them busy and not exposed to abuses, formal education classes by telling them about their rights or informing them on where to go in case they become victims of child abuse.

4. Protection of Children in Emergency Situations involves many sectors for it to be successful.

Discuss The Statement Citing Examples

Child protection in emergencies (CPiE) refers to all efforts to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children in the aftermath of a disaster. It includes, as a first step, guaranteeing that children receive all the necessary humanitarian assistance that is required for their safety and wellbeing,

CPiE prioritizes the fulfilment of certain rights for children in emergencies, namely those that protect children against maltreatment and ensures their survival and wellbeing.[[21]](#footnote-21)

Emergencies are situations or events that threaten the health, safety, security, or wellbeing of a community and especially of children. They demand immediate and urgent action, especially during the first few hours of a disaster. Emergencies often escalate into full-fledged humanitarian situations if we do not respond to them in a timely and effective manner. They can be caused by either natural or man-made hazards. Tsunamis, cyclones, earthquakes, floods, and other natural hazards are the primary cause of emergencies besides war.

**PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE WORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES:**

The following are the basic principles in providing protection to children in emergencies. These principles derive primarily from the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), humanitarian law, and lessons learnt from past emergencies.

**1 Avoid exposing people to further harm as a result of your actions:** It stipulates that, those involved in humanitarian responses must do all they can to avoid exposing people affected by disaster, particularly children, to further harm during the provision of relief and assistance such as food materials and non-food materials such as clothes, shelter and utensils.

**2 Ensure people’s access to impartial assistance:** Meaning that, humanitarian assistance must be available to all those in need without any discrimination or exclusion on political or other grounds. This principle ensures that we assist everyone equally, regardless of preferences. Favoritism has to be avoided at all cost; aid has to be given to everyone, starting with those who need it the most, such as women, girls and boys, and children with disabilities.

**3 Protect people from physical and psychological harm arising from violence and coercion:** Children must be protected from “violence, being forced or induced to act against their will,” and from fear of such abuse. It stresses that protection in emergencies should be carried out in a way that makes children more secure, facilitate children’s and families’ own efforts to stay safe, and reduce children’s exposure to risks.

**4 Assist people to claim their rights, access available remedies and recover from the effects of abuse** This principle reminds us that children are rights-holders, and that we have the obligation of assisting them and their caretakers to claim their rights. It also affirms children’s rights to legal redress and remedies, as well as to social and legal services that will help them move past their experiences of abuse.

**5 Strengthen children’s resilience in humanitarian action:** This principle is based on the notion that all children have internal strengths and capacities that should be harnessed and encouraged. Services in emergencies have to aim at increasing support for children and reducing risks around them. All efforts must be done to strengthen children’s skills and coping mechanisms.

**CHILD PROTECTION STANDARDS**

It is important to coordinate with and consider the following standards:

**Coordination:** Authorities, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations and representatives of affected populations coordinate their child protection efforts in order to ensure a full, efficient and timely response. Coordination allows everyone involved in child protection to agree on a shared set of objectives and division of labor. It can help create an inter-agency or multi-sectoral response that strengthens child protection systems in the long run.

**Human resources:** Child protection services are delivered by staff with proven competence in their areas of work. Recruitment processes and human resource policies include measures to protect girls and boys from exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers. This does not aim to replace standards developed by humanitarian agencies elsewhere, but rather provides a focus for human resources when mobilizing child protection staff and implementing safeguarding requirements.

**Communication, advocacy and media:** Child protection issues are communicated and advocated for with respect for girls’ and boys’ dignity, best interests and safety. Humanitarian organizations communicate and advocate on child protection issues, thereby bringing children’s images and stories to the general public. When used in a careful and strategic manner, communication concerning children can lead to advances in child protection. However, if used wrongly, communication and advocacy can negatively affect the way children are perceived, and may cause further danger to children and their families.

**Programme cycle management:** All child protection programs build on existing capacities, resources and structures and address the evolving child protection risks and needs identified by girls, boys and adults affected by the emergency. Child protection programs must build on pre-existing information together with assessments (if needed). Children and their communities should be engaged in the situation analysis, programme design and monitoring and evaluation. Analysis and considerations of existing child protection systems, and how these can be strengthened, should always be integrated into the programme.

**Information Management:** Up-to-date information necessary for effective child protection programming is collected, used, stored and shared, with full respect for confidentiality, and in accordance with the ‘do no harm’ principle and the best interests of the child. Information about a specific child for case management purposes may need to be stored and shared if and when necessary. Information about the overall situation of children and of the response should be consolidated, analyzed, summarized and used to inform programmatic decisions for the protection of children.

**Child protection monitoring:** Objective and timely information on child protection concerns is collected in an ethical manner and systematically triggers or informs prevention and response activities. Systematic monitoring of child protection concerns should be carried out from the first stages of an emergency. Monitoring refers to the on-going collection of information indicating levels and patterns of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Monitoring should always be combined with response.

**Physical violence and other harmful practices:** Girls and boys are protected from physical violence and other harmful practices, and survivors have access to age-specific and culturally appropriate responses. Patterns of violence are heightened in humanitarian settings and children are more at risk of domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse and corporal punishment. Families and other sources of protection are often put under immense strain and the weakened protective environment around the child may result in family or community members abusing children. Families may also resort to harmful practices as a coping mechanism in the aftermath of an emergency.

**Sexual violence:** Girls and boys are protected from sexual violence and survivors of sexual violence have access to age-appropriate information as well as a safe, responsive and holistic response. In the chaos that can follow an emergency, children of all ages are at a heightened risk of sexual violence, and are more easily exploited and coerced than adults. Sexual violence is present in all emergencies, but is often hidden. Prevention and response to sexual violence against children should be addressed in all emergencies.

**Children associated with armed forces or armed groups (CAAFAG):** Girls and boys are protected from recruitment and use in hostilities by armed forces or armed groups, and are released and provided with effective reintegration services. Children continue to be recruited and used by armed forces or armed groups across the world. Boys and girls are used in a number of ways, including as combatants, spies, porters and informants, or for sexual purposes.

**Child labor:** Girls and boys are protected from the worst forms of child labor, in particular those related to or made worse by the emergency. In emergency contexts, with the possible loss of livelihoods, breadwinners and access to education, children become particularly vulnerable to child labor. While the child protection response in an emergency should be as thorough as possible, the response should prioritize the worst forms of child labor, starting with those related to or made worse by the emergency.

**Justice for children:** All girls and boys who come into contact with the justice systems as victims, witnesses or alleged offenders are treated in line with international standards. Emergency situations often increase the exposure of children to the justice system as alleged offenders, victims or witnesses, or in a combination of these roles. For children in conflict with the law, detention should be a last resort, and where possible, diversion and alternative measures involving families and communities should be used.

**Protecting excluded children:** All girls and boys in humanitarian settings have access to basic services and protection, and the causes and means of exclusion are identified and addressed. Exclusion is commonly associated with stigmatized social status such as disability, belonging to an ethnic or religious minority, gender, or economic standing. Humanitarian crises can make exclusion worse, but may also offer opportunities for change.

**Education and child protection:** Child protection concerns are reflected in the assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation of education programs. Boys and girls of all ages can access safe, high-quality, child-friendly, flexible, relevant and protective learning opportunities in a protective environment. Quality education contributes to the safety and wellbeing of children before, during and after emergencies. It requires close collaboration between education and child protection actors on a range of issues including child-friendly spaces and child protection prevention measures.

**Health and child protection:** Child protection concerns are reflected in the assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation of health programs. Girls and boys have access to quality health services delivered in a protective way that takes into account their age and developmental needs. Health intervention is a central part of an overall approach to support services in response to major child protection risks in emergencies. Health activities must reduce child protection risks, and generally be carried out in a protective way.

**Nutrition and child protection:** Child protection concerns are reflected in the assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation of nutrition programs. Girls and boys of all ages and their caregivers, especially pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, have access to safe, adequate and appropriate nutrition services and food. Children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of under-nutrition in times of instability and crisis. Risk-prevention measures should be included within nutrition activities.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and child protection:** Child protection concerns are reflected in the assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation of WASH programs. All girls and boys have access to appropriate WASH services that minimize the risks of physical and sexual violence. Child protection workers have an important role to play in making sure that child protection activities contribute to and maintain safe and appropriate WASH practices for and by children. Similarly, WASH workers should make sure that their interventions are carried out in a way that protects children and their caregivers.

**Shelter and child protection:** Child protection concerns are reflected in the assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation of shelter programs. All girls and boys and their caregivers have appropriate shelter provided that meets basic needs, including protection and disability access, and which facilitate longer-term solutions. Shelter is a complex sector with many implications for child protection. Vulnerability for children can increase during and after disasters, when children may be living with new, reduced or altered family units, or alone.

**Camp management and child protection:** Child protection concerns are reflected in the assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation of camp management programs. The safety and wellbeing of girls and boys of all ages living in camps is safeguarded through camp management structures. The aim of managing camps is to create the space needed to deliver protection and help effectively. This affects child protection in several ways – for example, through the way the camp is physically planned, the way support is distributed, or the way decisions are made that affect children’s lives. Camp managers need to make sure children are not exposed to risks in the camps, and respond when these are identified.

**Distribution and child protection:** Children access humanitarian assistance through efficient and well-planned distribution systems that safeguard girls and boys from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Distribution of immediate, life-saving assistance is one of the most urgent actions to be taken in an emergency response, and one that can significantly improve the safety and wellbeing of children. The way in which food and other relief items are distributed has a significant effect on the threats experienced by women and children. Any kind of distribution needs to incorporate a child protection approach. It should be timely, comprehensive and extremely well planned.

In conclusion, child protection in every Humanitarian Context remain the a very high priority to every individual’s, Parent, Community and sectors or International institution right to support every child that has been victimized or violated of their rights. Even in the front of crisis responding to child Protection has to be taken into consideration because when children are catered for, protected from any harm of exploitation, the future generation is shattered and increase in exploitation and abuse of children remain stagnant in every Nation and Communities.

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**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

GBV Gender Based Violence

UN United Nations

SEA Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

1ASC Inter- Agency Standing Committee

HIV Human Immune Deficiency Virus

STI Sexual Transmitted Infection

CEDAW Community Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

UNSG United Nation Secretary General

UNICEF United Nations Children Fund

UNHCR United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees

CPiE Child Protection in Emergency

CRC Convention on the Right of Children

CAACG Child Association with Armed Forces or Armed Group

WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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