



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3



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MULTI-SECTOR AND INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING AND COLLABORATION



GOAL: Children's protection and well-being are prioritised within cross-sector collaboration, including within multi-sector and integrated programmes, and across all humanitarian action.

Multi-sectoral collaboration and integrated programming is integral to holistically achieving child protection outcomes – and to supporting the centrality of children and their protection. The multi-faceted nature of child protection risks, and the adversity that children and their families can face as a result, often requires multi-sector approaches and cross-sectoral collaboration to prevent risks, respond to needs, strengthen protective factors, and contribute to well-being. Child protection alone cannot achieve this; neither can any other individual sector.

While collaborative approaches and multi-sector programmes are increasingly prioritised, there remains an important need for the child protection sector to prioritise working with other sectors to prevent harmful outcomes and secure greater accountability to children within humanitarian programmes. This includes working with other sectors to meaningfully consider and ensure that child protection risks, protective factors, and child safeguarding are being prioritised within stand-alone, multi-sector, and integrated programmes. It extends to ensuring the critical role and lens of child protection within multi-sectoral issues are recognised and prioritised by donors and operational actors alike: such as the key role of child protection within mental health and psychosocial support in reducing harm and promoting resilience, or working with child sexual- and gender-based violence survivors and ensuring that funding and interventions are age-appropriate and prioritise children, including girls, boys, and LGBTI children. It can extend further still to the need for child protection actors to work more deeply with communities, and to support and

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strengthen national systems, recognising that community-level protection and systems strengthening approaches are more integrated by nature and do not reflect humanitarian sectors or silos. Overall, multi-sector approaches and cross-sectoral collaboration means leveraging the many entry points to protecting children across sectors, contributing to stronger overall child protection outcomes through diverse pathways, and further supporting the centrality of (children and their) protection.

Successfully working across sectors to achieve stronger multi-sectoral outcomes, including those for children, requires a number of key actions:

- the recognition of the capacities and competencies each sector brings, and how these can support both individual sector and multi-sector outcomes, in complementarity to the overall response;
- an understanding of the inter-connected and correlated nature of child protection risks in order to mainstream these into assessments, analyses, and planning for all sectors;
- the necessity of having high-quality, individual-level data, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, and other relevant diversity factors to enable

needs-responsive programmes that can anticipate and prevent harm, in addition to responding to it;

- the generation of evidence on the efficacy of integrated interventions for achieving child protection outcomes to help identify entry points and facilitate joint programmes;
- the documentation of learning and good practice from multi-sector and integrated programmes, and effective dissemination of these to enable their application and use; and
- advocacy and communication to highlight the joint benefits of multi-sector and integrated programming to all sectors.

These actions, however, must be backed by resources from donors, support from decision-makers, and sufficient knowledge and capacity amongst practitioners.



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Child protection actors have been working for years to strengthen relationships with other sectors. Within the Child Protection Minimum Standards, [Pillar 4](#) is dedicated to working collaboratively with other sectors. There are ongoing initiatives with other sectors, in collaboration with the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and the UNHCR, including between child protection and the food security and livelihoods cluster, and with health actors in particular around infectious disease outbreaks. The education and child protection sectors have a significant history of collaboration, including between the Global Education Cluster and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility – most recently around [localisation](#), [COVID-19](#), and developing a [collaboration in coordination framework](#). Further strengthening the linkages and efforts between the two sectors, The Alliance has developed a strong and fruitful partnership with the [Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies](#), initiating a [joint project](#) that has seen the two sectors work closely on a number of technical initiatives including the alignment of their respective competency frameworks, a [position paper](#) on collaboration across the two sectors, as well as a number of [papers](#) on the linkages and [co-related impacts](#) of COVID-19 on education and child protection. This work and partnership will continue throughout implementation of the strategy.

During the 2021-2025 Strategy period, The Alliance will partner and collaborate with other sectors to advocate and demonstrate how the needs of children are best responded to through data-informed, child-protection sensitive stand-alone, multi-sector or integrated interventions that look to holistically protect children and families, and support their overall well-being.

Specifically, The Alliance will:

- **ENCOURAGE** and **PROMOTE** increased prioritisation of child protection risks, data needs, and interventions within other sectors, and as a part of multi-sector and integrated programmes.
- **DEVELOP** new or strengthen existing partnerships with 2-3 other sectors.
- **PROMOTE** and **EXPAND** the knowledge and capacity of other sectors to mainstream and integrate child protection within their programmes.
- **EXPAND** and **FACILITATE** access across the child protection sector to capacity strengthening, learning, and development opportunities focused on working with other sectors, in line with Pillar 4 of the CPMS.