Inclusion Toolkit

Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

unicef

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Acronyms

BID	Best Interest (of the Child) and Best Interest Determination
BIP	UNHCR Best Interests Procedure Guidelines, referred to as BIP Guidelines
1951 Convention	The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group
CP	Child Protection
CPS	Child Protection Systems
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugees Response Framework
DCS	Department of Children's Services
DSWCD	Department of Social Welfare and Community Development
ExCom	Executive Committee (UNHCR)
FTR	Family Tracing and Reunification
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
GFR	Global Forum for Refugees
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ISS	International Social Service
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PF4C	Public Financing for Children
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RSD	Refugee status determination
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Acknowledgements
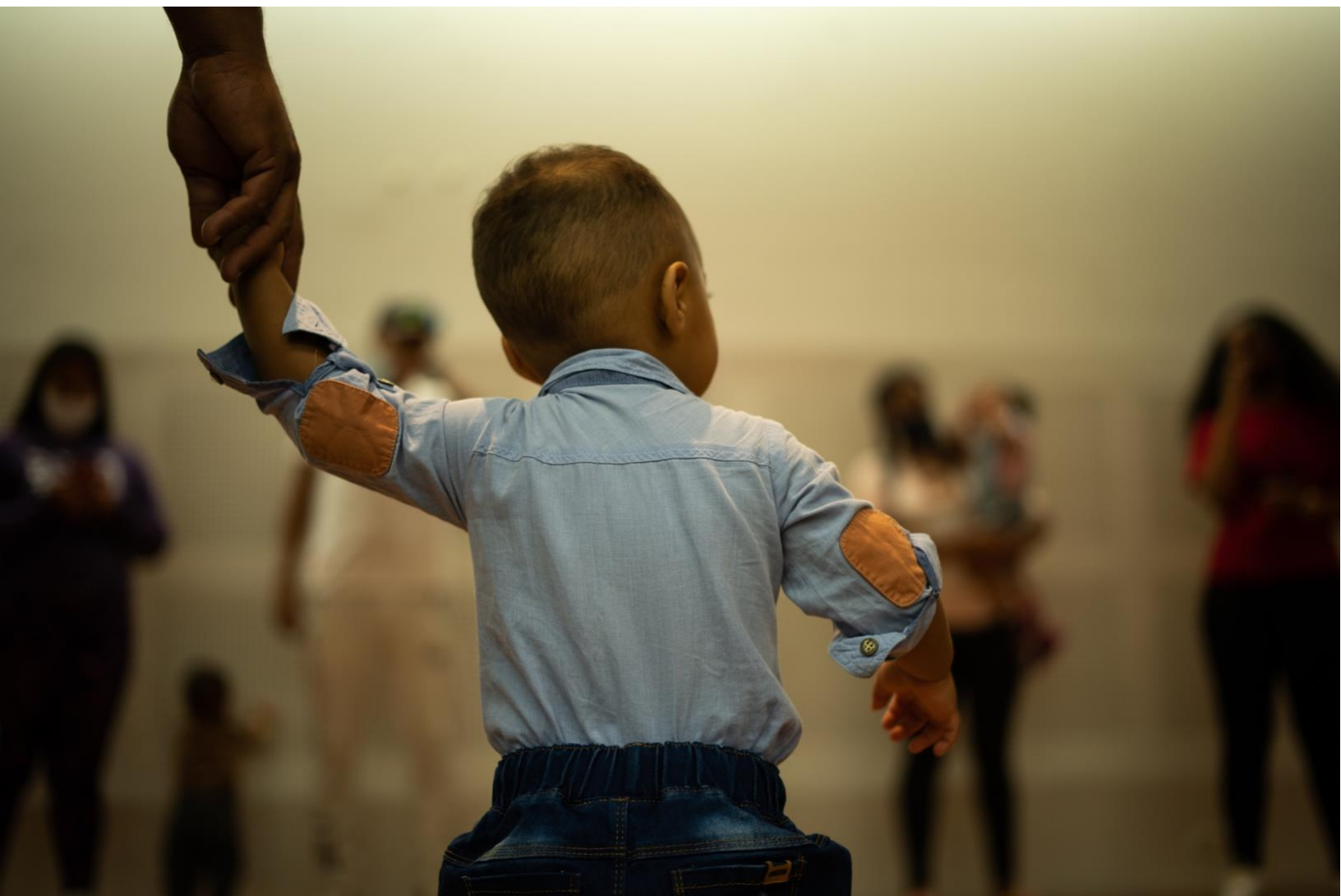
Part 1: Introduction

1.1. Background

UNHCR and UNICEF have developed this diagnostic tool on the inclusion of refugee and asylum-seeking children in national child protection systems (CPS) for implementation at national and subnational level, particularly with government counterparts. The Inclusion Toolkit (Toolkit) is the foundation of a mapping process in which UNHCR, UNICEF, government counterparts and other stakeholders work together to:

- Understand the available capacity including resources of the national child protection
- Assess the degree to which refugee children are already included in national child protection systems (policy and practice)
- Develop an action plan to support the inclusion of refugee children in all aspects of the national child protection system

Note: Throughout this Toolkit, the term 'refugee' should be understood to refer to both refugee *and* asylum-seeking children.

1.2.   Overview of the Toolkit

The Toolkit includes:
- A brief overview of the organizational mandates, guiding principles, international instruments and guidance that inform the inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems
- The purpose of the Toolkit
- Guidance on the mapping process, including time commitments and budget considerations
- A step-by-step guide to using the Mapping Tool
- Recommendations for conducting an analysis of the findings
- The Mapping Tool
- Annexes for additional support

UNHCR and UNICEF developed this Toolkit for the inclusion of asylum-seeking and refugee children in national child protection systems according to the following guiding principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

- **Non-discrimination:** States are required under international law to respect children's rights and to ensure that all children (including refugee children) within their territory can realise their rights without discrimination.[1]
- **Best interests principle**: Children have the right to have their best interests assessed and taken into account as a primary consideration in all actions or decisions that concern them.[2]
- **Child participation (linked to age, gender and diversity):** All children of all ages and abilities should be able to participate in the decision making of any issues affecting them, to allow them to actively contribute to their own protection.[3]
- **Non-refoulement:** The principle of no return (together with the principles of voluntariness, safety and dignity) must be upheld for children.[4]
- **Survival and development (solutions):** Every child has the inherent right to life, nationality, development (including education), safety, and family.[5]

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[1] Articles 2.1. and 2.2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
[2] Article 3 of the CRC.
[3] 2021 UNHCR BIP Guidelines, p. 64.
[4] 2021 UNHCR BIP Guidelines, p. 50.
[5] 2021 UNHCR BIP Guidelines, p. 32 & 51 and UNICEF, What is the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Child Rights we should all know.

- **Rights-based approach:** In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all actors should support the rights of refugee children, their families, and communities to ensure systems and services "leave no one behind".[6]
- **Partnership:** Participating organisations of the Global Humanitarian Platform in 2007 (including UNHCR and UNICEF) agreed to base their partnerships on equality, transparency, a result-oriented approach, responsibility and complementarity.[7]
- **Accountability to affected populations:** Humanitarian actors commit to meaningfully and continuously involving affected communities in decisions that directly impact their lives, using power responsibly, and implementing effective, quality programming that respects the communities' dignity, capacity, and independence.[8]
- **Do no harm:** The principle is that actors should avoid exposing people to further harm (including rights violations) as a result of their actions."[9]
- **State responsibility:** States are the primary duty bearers (including the duty of protection) for children in their territory, whether they are nationals, asylum seekers, or refugees.[10]

1.3. Duty-bearers' responsibility to child refugees

Governments are the primary duty bearers towards asylum seeking children and refugee children in their territory. Countries that have ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention are obliged to protect refugees on their territory and treat them according to internationally recognized standards. In order to implement these international obligations, signatory governments are obliged to establish national asylum/refugee systems. Specific Refugee Affairs Departments typically handle registration of asylum applications, refugee status determination (RSD), legal protection functions, and refugee camp management. Refugee Affairs Departments can also coordinate the overall refugee response and at times provide sector-specific services. Importantly, in some countries, governments take full responsibility for these functions. In other countries, the national government enables UNHCR to supplement some or all of these functions.[11]

UNHCR's mandate is to work with host governments to provide and coordinate international protection, assistance, and solutions for 'children of concern': asylum-seeking, internally displaced, refugee, returnee and stateless children. This includes helping refugees find permanent solutions for safe housing, education, and work in line with national legislation and policies.

UNICEF's protection mandate extends to all children, regardless of their status. In its Child Protection Systems Strengthening Approach[12], UNICEF has outlined core investments, intermediate outcomes, outcomes and impact for national child protection systems (see Annex 5 Programme – Impact Pathways for Child Protection Systems Strengthening).

Therefore, at the time of implementing the Toolkit, Governments can be at different stages in the process of gradually assuming responsibilities for these functions, with technical and financial support from UNHCR, UNICEF, and/or or development actors.[13] This Toolkit is a joint effort by UNHCR and UNICEF to promote the international protection of child refugees, prevent and respond to risks related to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.[14]

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[6] Sustainable Development Goals, 2015.

[7] https://www.unhcr.org/5735bd464.pdf.

[8] https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/42554/accountability-to-affected-people-aap.

[9] The Sphere Project Handbook, 2011, p.33.

[10] The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion 107 on Children at Risk (ExCom 107).

[11] UNHCR and UNICEF, Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems: Guidance for Practitioners in East Africa, 2017.

[12] UNICEF Child Protection Systems Strengthening paper series 2021.

[13] UNHCR and UNICEF, Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems: Guidance for Practitioners in East Africa, 2017.

[14] International protection of children of concern. Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. EC/61/SC/CRP.13. 31 May 2010, and note of July 2021.

1.4. Functions of national child protection and asylum systems

National child protection systems are a combination of formal and informal structures, functions and capacities that have been assembled to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children.[15] There are two mutually reinforcing systems to protect refugee children – the national child protection system and the refugee asylum system. Each national system is influenced by the socio-political context (i.e. humanitarian or development context, etc.) and may vary in *maturity* and *capacity*. The interconnectedness between the formal (i.e. government-led services, ministries, and departments) and informal (i.e. community-led, family-based) elements of the system is a vital element that should not be overlooked.

Key services in national child protection systems generally include:
- **Social Welfare**, including support to families (positive parenting, etc.), prevention activities and services to combat violence against children, prevention of family separation, family reunification, case management (including cross-border coordination), care and alternative care, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).
- **Justice**, including legal aid, protection orders, custody procedures and access to justice for both adults and children in contact with the law.[16]
- **Birth registration and legal identity**, including national identification cards and passports, etc.

Figure 1 on the Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems highlights the inter-connections among child protection services, child friendly refugee protection procedures, and other key sectors. The figure places the refugee child at the centre of our approach.
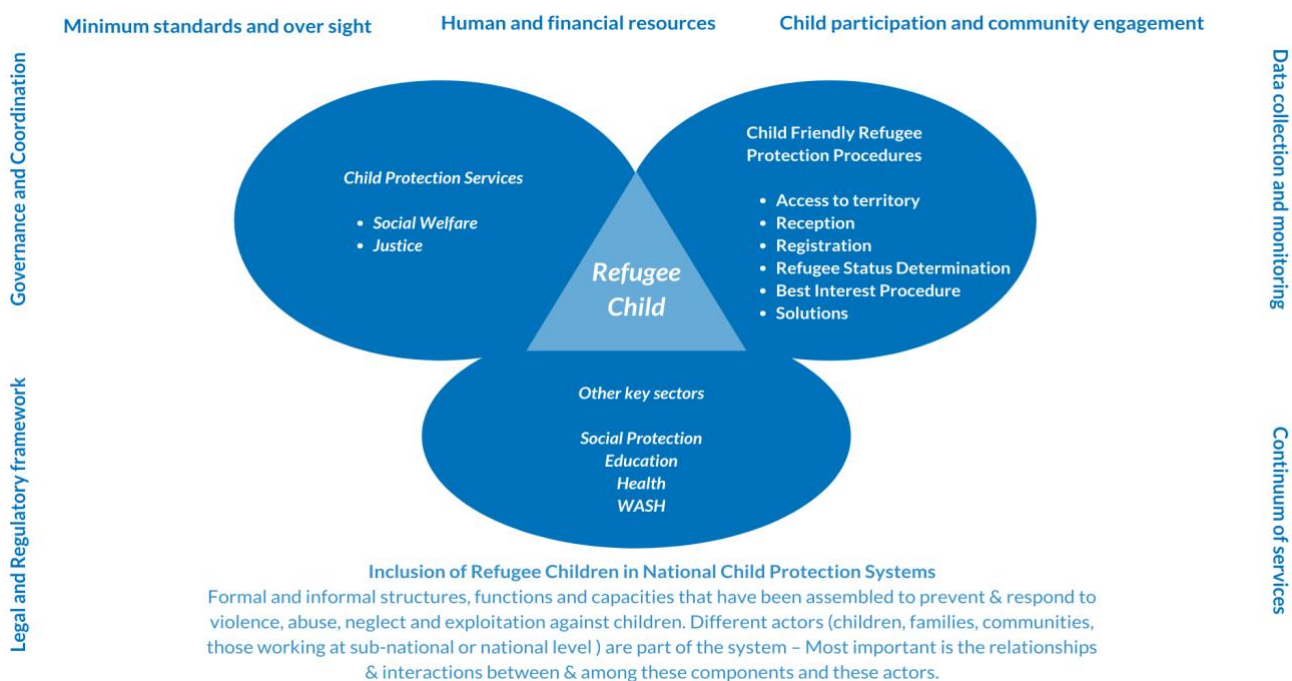
Figure 1: Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems

National asylum systems function as part of the greater national protection system and are in place to assess and determine who qualifies for international protection.[17] A State's asylum system involves establishing a legislative framework and related policies, strategies and action plans to enable the government to fulfill its international

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[15] UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children and World Vision. 'A better way to protect all children: The theory and practice of child protection systems, conference report', 2013.
[16] See UNICEF Child Protection Strategy (2021-2030).
[17] UNHCR website.

obligations to asylum-seekers and refugees. This framework establishes non-discriminatory mechanisms for the fair and efficient assessment of asylum claims and, where appropriate, access to the territory of the State.[18] For asylum-seeking children, fair and efficient *child-friendly* asylum procedures are vital.

There is increasing recognition that national child protection systems should offer a continuum of prevention and response services - including the development and roll-out of case management and referral systems - across social welfare, justice, health and education.[19]

1.5. Rationale for including refugees in national protection systems

What is inclusion?

"Inclusion" is when refugee children's rights are respected, without discrimination, in law and practice, including their ability to access national services. Due to their unique status as refugees, child refugees often have specific legal, child protection or social welfare needs. Both UNHCR and UNICEF strongly support the long-standing consensus that States are obligated to protect the rights of all children, including asylum-seeking and refugee children. Working with government is key to this approach.[20]

These obligations are enshrined in international instruments, policies, and guidance. The 1951 Refugee convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child specifically highlight the roles of UNHCR and UNICEF respectively "in improving the protection outcomes for refugee children at heightened risk by situating the best interest of refugee children within a comprehensive child protection system and by strengthening child protection case management for all refugee children." (For additional information see Annex 2).

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) calls for States, UN agencies, host communities and other stakeholders to prioritize inclusion as an approach.[21]

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[18] Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNHCR, A guide to international refugee protection and building state asylum systems. Handbook for Parliamentarians No 27, 2017".
[19] UNICEF Child Protection Strategy (2021-2030).
[20] UNHCR and UNICEF, Child Protection Blueprint – A Fair Deal for Refugee Children, November 2021.
[21] The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) emphasizes that refugee assistance should, to the extent possible, be delivered by national actors, including public authorities for social welfare, child protection, and civil registration. Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems: Guidance for Practitioners in East Africa, 2017.

Figure 2 illustrates the socio-ecological model with the refugee child at the centre. Our priority is for the refugee and asylum-seeking children to grow up in a safe and protective environment, free from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect where children and their families can access appropriate services, and where their overall well-being and personal development is encouraged and supported.
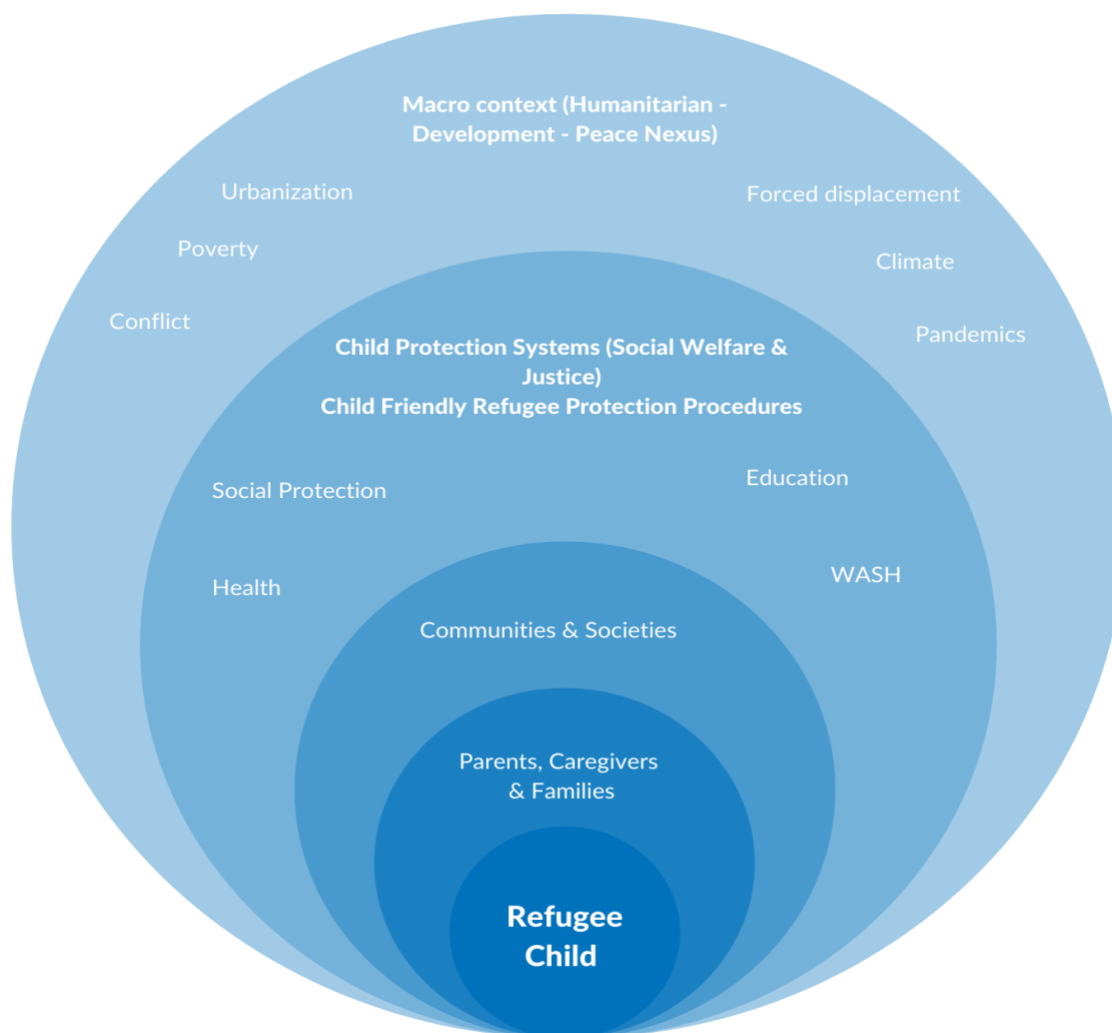
Figure 2: The socio-ecological model with the refugee child at the centre; adapted from UNICEF's Child Protection Strategy 2021-2030.

To note Figures 1 & 2 are complementary: They are simply different ways to present the issue.

Other key international and organisational documents that promote this approach include:
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) (CRC)
- The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention) and its 1967 Protocol
- The 1950 Statute for the International Protection of Refugees and Humanitarian Assistance
- The UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion No. 107 – (LVIII) - 2007 on Children at Risk (ExCom107)
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) principle to 'leave no one behind'
- The Global Forum for Refugees (GFR), December 2019
- The 2021 UNHCR Best Interests Procedure Guidelines: Assessing and Determining the Best Interest of the Child (BIP Guidelines 2021)
- UNHCR Technical Guidance: Child Friendly Procedures, 2021
- UNICEF's Child Protection Strategy (2021-2030)
- UNICEF Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approach; Benchmarks; Interventions, 2021.

When/why is inclusion preferable?

Refugees, including children, may have more difficulty accessing protection and other services if their needs were not adequately considered in the development of child protection systems. In some country contexts national legislation specifically mentions and provides for refugee children. In others, the legislation generally entitles all children to the same comprehensive rights – and there are some settings where legislation or policy explicitly excludes refugee children from national child protection systems. In addition, where legislation does ensure refugees are included, this may not be systematically and effectively translated into policies and practices that ensure access to services.

While national protection systems should include refugee children, there are often gaps in implementation. Inclusion can facilitate cross-learning and sharing of specific expertise between complementary branches of the government (i.e. refugee affairs and child protection departments or commissions).

When properly implemented, integrated interventions and systems strengthening measures should contribute to child protection systems that address the needs of all children.

1.6. Inclusion in practice

What are some signs that inclusion is in place?

Inclusion takes different shapes and forms depending upon the context, including national legislation and policies. Both aspects of national protection systems – refugee protection and child protection - should be engaged in order to address the needs of refugee children in a holistic manner.[22]

A key sign will be that asylum seeking and refugee children's first contact will usually be with the country's national asylum system. Inclusive procedures should be child-friendly[23] and will provide care and support according to the best interests of the child. Where refugee children face child protection risks and challenges, these children should be put in contact with the national child protection system as soon as possible, where it is accessible and appropriate.[24] Working together the child protection and refugee protection systems can find meaningful solutions to the specific needs of the child. (see below Child Friendly Procedures section, the 2021 UNHCR BIP Guidelines or UNHCR Technical Guidance: Child Friendly Procedures, 2021).

The following examples show some of the ways refugees have been included in national child protection systems in different contexts. *To note that contexts may differ from country to country but strengthening inclusion and the national child protection system remains the end goal.*

Inclusion in a humanitarian context, protracted refugee population

Strengthening and supporting national child protection systems is the primary focus of the refugee child protection response in **Jordan**, where partnership between the government, UNICEF and other partners has resulted in a number of successful initiatives, including the establishment of a Juvenile Police Department in the main refugee camp at Zaatari to ensure that incidents involving children in conflict with the law are handled through child sensitive systems.[25]

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[22] UNHCR and UNICEF, Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems: Guidance for Practitioners in East Africa, 2017.
[23] See 2021 UNHCR BIP Guidelines or UNHCR Technical Guidance: Child Friendly Procedures, 2021.
[24] International protection of children of concern. Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. EC/61/SC/CRP.13. 31 May 2010.
[25] Protection of Refugee Children in the Middle East and North Africa, UNHCR Middle East and North Africa Bureau, 2014.

Inclusion in a development context, protracted refugee population

In **Kenya,** the government recognizes their responsibility towards all children and leads in promoting all children's access to services. There is no discrimination towards refugee children, although the packages and available services throughout the country may be limited. Department of Children's Services (DCS) staff are based in refugee camps, and DCS staff from the capital have carried out joint missions with UNICEF and UNHCR to assess needs and services being provided.

In **Ghana,** UNHCR works closely with the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development (DSWCD) to foster the integration of refugee children into the national child protection system. Officers in the regions work with children and families in refugee camps, providing case management and counselling on domestic violence, child protection, child maintenance and custody, and more. UNHCR field staff work with the families and DSWCD to monitor and support the implementation of protection measures and to collaborate on BID reports, panel discussions, foster care arrangements, and child maintenance issues.

Inclusion in a context with small numbers of refugees

Initiatives focused on professional accreditation, such as the *Isibindi*[26] community childcare workers initiative in **Zambia** promote sustainability as the (para-professional) workers can be absorbed by the State.

Inclusion in a developed context, sudden onset refugee population

In **Finland,** the Child Welfare Act applies to all children in Finland, regardless of their background or status. Child protection falls within the remit of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The Asylum system is generally child-friendly and follows detailed guidelines on the best interest of children that were developed by Finnish Immigration Services. The National Child Strategy ("Finland for all Children", February 2021) is based on human rights treaties, holds to a child- and family-friendly vision, and respects the right of the child. However, there is limited recognition of the specific needs of refugee children, and the quality of services available which varies between municipalities.

What are some common reasons that inclusion does not occur?

There are many reasons why inclusion might not occur.

1.Refugee children are not included in policy and legislation (they may not be eligible to access national services).

2. The national child protection system is not well developed and has limited capacity.

3. A national child protection system is already overstretched and lacks the capacity to serve refugee children, or even national children.

4. Central policies do not match the reality of subnational authorities and services in the areas where refugees are hosted.

5.The interconnectedness of different sectors/domains can hinder inclusion. For example, refugees may be unable to access available services because they do not have freedom of movement, access to identification documents, etc.

6.Practical barriers such as language, etc. can also limit refugee children's inclusion in national protection systems if service providers can only provide services in the dominant language.

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[26] The *Isibindi* model started in South Africa where there is a large refugee population. Stakeholders, including the government, have prioritized the sustainability of the initiative.

In such instances, humanitarian services compliment national systems to ensure quality, accessible and timely service provision. Depending on how developed the national child protection system is, and the capacity of the system we can then assess questions of access and appropriateness of the system (language, proximity of services, etc.) and work towards inclusion/further inclusion.

1.7. Purpose of the Toolkit

This Toolkit is designed to help key stakeholders assess the existence, accessibility, appropriateness, affordability, and acceptability of services and to determine whether other elements of the system are non-discriminatory to refugee children (see Figure 1).

The purpose of the Toolkit is to assess and strengthen the inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems, not only to map, but also to identify and develop action plans to strengthen inclusion – the mapping is one step in the process, following which a plan to strengthen inclusion should be developed and implemented.

The use of the Toolkit should be viewed as part of a *process*, building on systems strengthening and inclusion efforts already underway in your respective country. The agreed Work Plan or Action Plan that is developed as part of this process will guide all stakeholders on responses and next steps building on efforts by key stakeholders.

Map	Develop Action Plan	Implement	Monitor progress	Adjust/ update accordingly
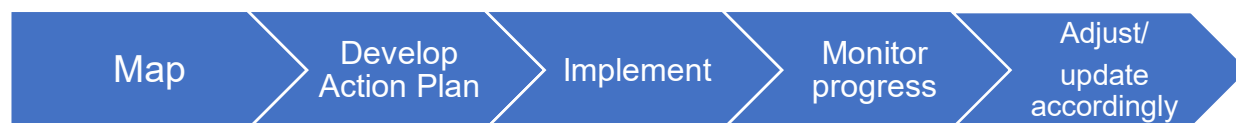
Figure 3: Visual of the mapping process

UNHCR and UNICEF support nationally led inclusion, so a key purpose of the Inclusion Toolkit is to respect and promote government leadership, rather than a UN- or NGO-led approach. At the same time, it is important to partner with *all* stakeholders to assess what is *necessary* and *feasible* for inclusion in each country.

This Inclusion Toolkit has been developed to be used in any context, whether you are working in a humanitarian, development, or developed context; whether there is a long-standing refugee population or a sudden onset influx; whether the number of refugees is small, medium, or large; and whether there is sufficient, in-country capacity (financial, social service workforce, etc.). To help you tailor the mapping activity to your specific needs, the Mapping Tool includes questions about your context and suggests specific areas of the tool that might be most valuable to complete.

This Tool is not meant to pass judgement on a context as "good" or "bad". Rather, it provides an opportunity for all stakeholders strengthen the national child protection system, to increase refugee children's access to protection services and deliver tangible impacts.

The results of this assessment will vary based on the context. Some national child protection systems are inclusive towards refugee children. In such a context, many elements of the child protection system might function well and show limited need for support. Some assessments might show that certain services for refugees are being provided by humanitarian actors, and that the services are accessible to refugee children. Whatever the results reveal, they will impact how you and other key stakeholders prioritize the elements of the national child system that need the most support/enhancing in the coming months/years (to reinforce inclusion, but also to strengthen the system itself).

Limitations of the mapping

Carrying out the mapping will give you and your partners a snapshot of the degree of inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems in your country *at a particular point in time*. Child protection systems are not static: they change. This mapping can (and should) be reviewed regularly to assess whether the system and its degree of inclusion of refugee children has evolved or needs additional considerations and changes.

Key points from the piloting process:
- Crucial for both UNHCR and UNICEF to work together on the mapping – otherwise it is a lost opportunity!
- Senior management from both agencies should be committed & supportive of the mapping
- Relevant government ministries (child protection, refugee affairs) should be involved in the mapping
- Harness the government ministries strengths/comparative advantage
- You do not have to work on fixing the whole CP system – *focus on entry points & build on efforts to date*
- *Encourage key stakeholders' participation – i.e. vibrant civil society & social work departments, etc.*

The process does not need to be heavy! Focus on a practical work plan/outcome document (rather than making the mapping exercise burdensome)

Tap into existing entry points:
- Current capacity building efforts to strengthen the social service workforce
- Existing service delivery for refugee children

Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems and Refugee Procedures

Legal and Regulatory framework	Are <u>laws and policies</u> inclusive and non-discriminatory towards refugees? Do national policies & laws ensure refugee children access to national CP systems?
Governance and Coordination	Is <u>Governance and Coordination</u> active and sufficient between the national and refugee systems, including at the local level?
Minimum standards & oversight	Do <u>data collection and monitoring systems</u> include refugee children? Is this information age, gender, and (dis)ability disaggregated? i.e. Information management systems; Research assessments/evaluations; Routine data monitoring systems
Human and financial resources	Are there sufficient <u>human, financial & infrastructure</u> resources available for quality, appropriate services for refugee children? For the national system?
Child participation and community engagement	Are there mechanisms for active child participation & community engagement of refugees in the asylum/refugee system? At the community level? Are there simple, accessible ways for children, their families & communities to input into these mechanisms?
Data collection and monitoring	Do data collection and monitoring systems include refugee children? Is this information age, gender, and (dis)ability disaggregated? i.e. Information management systems; Research assessments/evaluations; Routine data monitoring systems
Continuum of prevention & response services	Are a full range of services available to asylum seeking & refugee children in decentralized locations? (Prevention & response) Are the services in close proximity to where the asylum seeking & refugee children live? Are there any barriers to accessing the services? (i.e. procedural, physical, language, discrimination) Are there any hidden costs that act as a barrier for access to key CP services? (Affordability) Do families and communities know about the CP services? Do they accept or agree to access these services? Are these CP services acceptable to refugees families & communities (language, attitudes, etc.)? Are the appropriate services available for asylum seeking & refugee children? (prevention & response) Does the quality of the available CP services meet international standards? -Is the quality of service delivery to individual refugees sufficient?

Figure 4: Elements assessed in the Inclusion Toolkit

Part 2: Guidance on the Mapping Process

2.1. Stage 1: Planning the mapping process

The mapping process has two basic goals:

- To assess the accessibility, appropriateness, affordability, and acceptability of the national child protection system in your context to determine the degree to which the system already includes and could potentially include refugee children
- To develop an action plan (or work plan) to support the inclusion of refugee children in all aspects of the national child protection system to strengthen the national child protection system

This process will involve coordination between a variety of different stakeholders, including:

- Senior government officials (consider actors from all areas of government, not just your regular line ministries)
- Senior management in your organisation
- Colleagues in your organization, notably those working in other sectors (e.g. social policy, cash transfers, education, health, etc.)
- Colleagues working on refugee protection
- Implementing partners
- Private sector
- Foundations (possible avenues for funding including for innovation initiatives)
- Refugee children, their families/caregivers, and community members
- Leaders from host communities
- Local community organizations
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Donors

As you build your team, remember that this is an opportunity for *all* stakeholders to learn more about the various systems, policies, and procedures that affect refugee children:

- Those involved with the refugee response can learn about national child protection priorities (including the national child protection system).
- Child protection actors and government counterparts who aren't involved in the refugee response can learn about the refugee response.
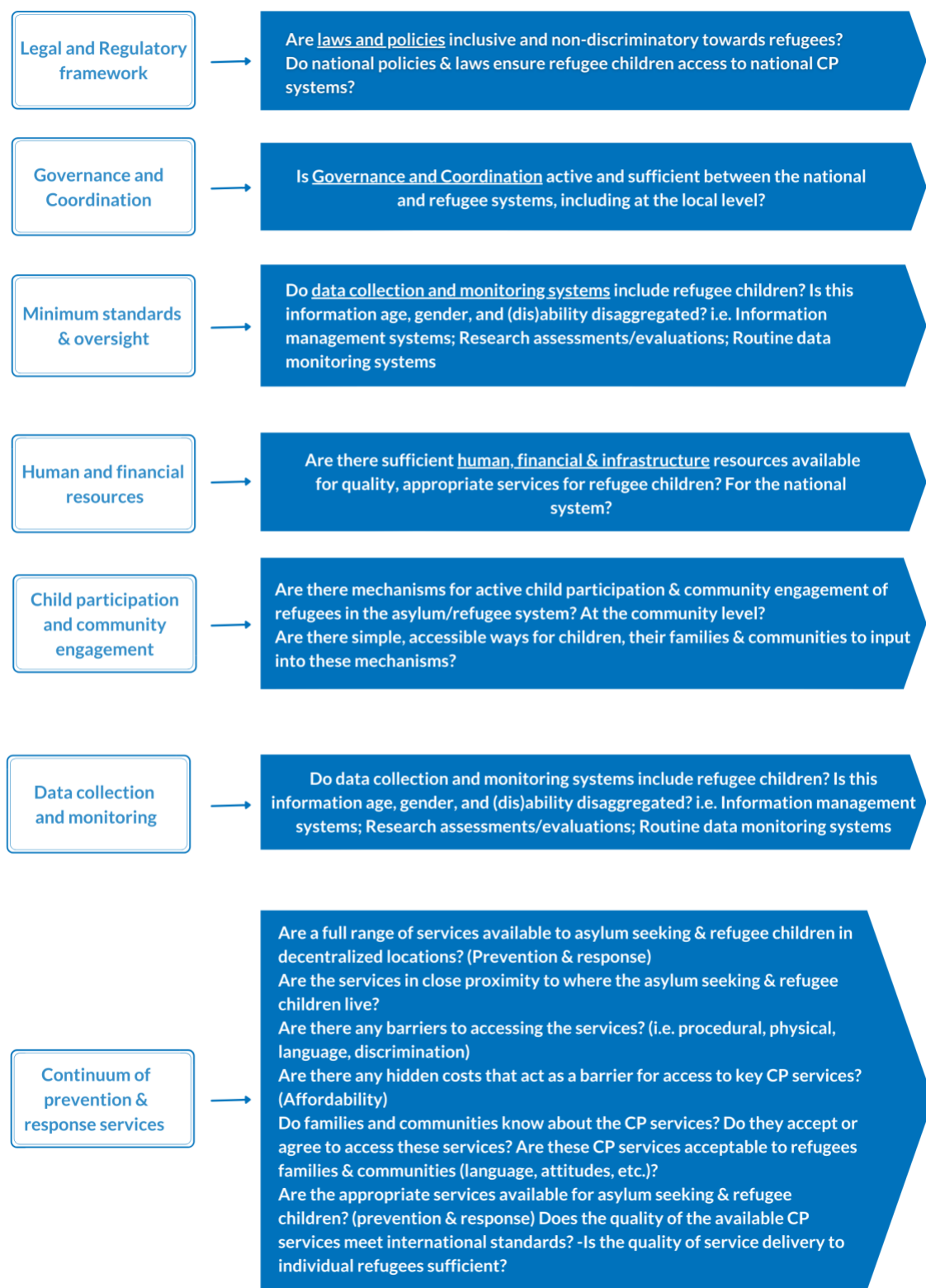- Other actors (such as those working on birth registration or national statistics, justice, planning or finance) can learn how their work relates to both the national child protection system and the refugee response.

The success of this process will depend upon strong leadership and comprehensive planning. It may be helpful to view this process through the key steps of the project management cycle. For detailed guidance on using the project management cycle, see UNICEF's Results-Based Management Handbook and the UNHCR Emergency Handbook.

Before undertaking the process, it is important to consider the implications of the mapping on:
- **Personnel** (Who in your organization will be responsible for different aspects of the mapping? Will you partner with another organization to support on the mapping process?)
- **Time** (Make sure staff have the time to devote to the mapping)
- **Finances** (Which organization(s) will be funding which aspects of the process? Is additional funding needed to cover personnel, national and/or sub-national workshop expenses, travel, etc.? If so, how can the funding be obtained?)

You will also want to create a work plan that identifies the actions that need to be taken, the people who are responsible for those actions, and the timeframe in which each action should be completed. More concrete impact will be possible when the work plan is developed and implemented in agreement with stakeholders.

Key activities in the work plan will include:
- Intra-agency meetings
- Bilateral and multi-lateral meetings between United Nations (UN) agencies (via existing coordination mechanisms like the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) or new mechanisms if needed)
- Meetings between UN actors and government counterparts
- Work with the Information Management officer (including specifics of data collection and storage)
- Development and distribution of background materials that describe the objectives of the mapping
- Consultations with key stakeholders, including refugee and host communities
- Workshop preparation
- A two-day mapping workshop (or series of mini-workshops)
- Plans for dissemination
- Follow-up with key stakeholders
- A validation exercise to help ensure ownership and transparency/accountability.

Checklist for planning the mapping process

- Discuss with senior management on the purpose and outcomes of the mapping
- Hold internal discussions between UNHCR and UNICEF to confirm the objectives of the mapping, the process and agree of roles and responsibilities, including engaging with senior government official
- Undertake an orientation and introduction to inclusion, the Mapping Tool, and the process with Child Protection and Refugee government counterparts and the interagency CP coordination mechanism
- UNHCR and UNICEF as the co-leads to work the lead government institution to establish clear role and responsibilities and develop the plan the mapping process
- Led by the government, utilize existing coordination mechanisms, if available, to meet with key stakeholders to build a shared vision and agree on the modalities for the mapping (national or sub-national workshop; series of thematic mini-workshops; etc.)
- Engaging with UNHCR and UNICEF colleagues in protection and technical sectors (i.e. Social Policy, Health, Education, etc.)
- Discuss and plan how to ensure meaningful and ethical participation of children - by applying the *Nine basic requirements for effective and ethical participation*.
- Consult with refugee networks and actors about the process and how to get additional feedback to prepare for the workshop (or series of mini-workshops)
- Identify pre-existing mechanisms or new approaches to encourage the full participation of stakeholders – including child and youth refugees, their families and host community representatives
- Develop a work plan for the mapping process that includes the following elements and define each agency contributions and commitments of:
- Pre and post mapping workshops
- Mapping activities and timeframe
- Data collection and data analysis tools
- Human resources required
- Financial resources required

2.2. Stage 2: Implementing the mapping workshop(s)

The mapping itself can be done either as part of a two-day mapping workshop *or* as a series of thematic mini-workshops. Either approach requires significant preparation, continued consultation, and effective follow up. Depending on the context, it may be useful to conduct the workshop(s) at the sub-national level (rather than in the capital) particularly in contexts where refugees are largely living in a specific area or areas of the country.

Prior to the workshop, provide participants with background materials that outline the general situation, key issues, and the purpose of the mapping so they can actively participate in the workshop.
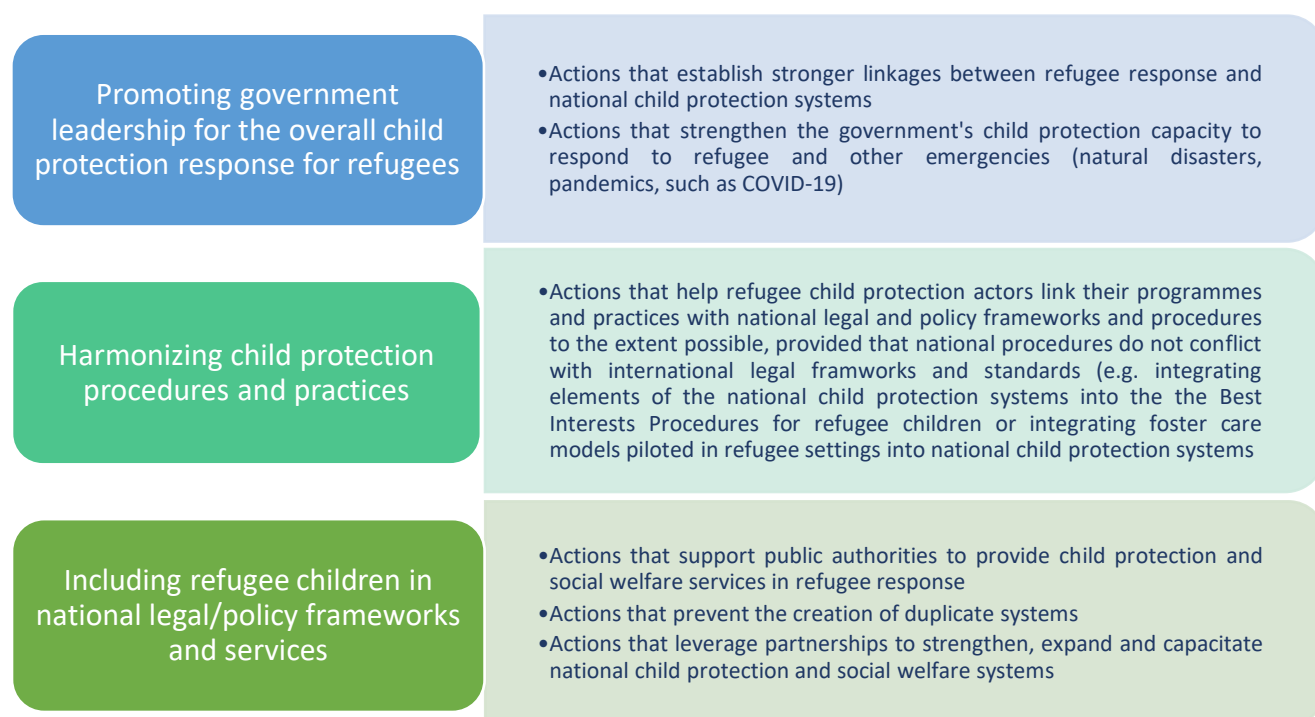
During the workshop, consider sharing experiences from other countries (including in your region) or relevant Regional Economic Communities.

Wrap-up the workshop by developing a *draft* Action Plan or Road Map. The action plan should include:
- Three or four key objectives to support the inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems
- The steps that should be taken for finalization (including roles and responsibilities)
- Key actions at both national and sub-national levels that should be taken in the short or medium term

Considerations for developing the action plan

In some instances, the mapping process will indicate that elements of the existing national child protection system must be strengthened to better serve refugee children and the opportunities to do so. Therefore, it's important to have the national government involved – to understand the strengths and weaknesses and to agree to support and strengthening as well as to also commit to work plan/road map roles and responsibilities. In general, key actions that will be included in the action plan fall into three main categories:

Promoting government leadership for the overall child protection response for refugees	• Actions that establish stronger linkages between refugee response and national child protection systems • Actions that strengthen the government's child protection capacity to respond to refugee and other emergencies (natural disasters, pandemics, such as COVID-19)
Harmonizing child protection procedures and practices	• Actions that help refugee child protection actors link their programmes and practices with national legal and policy frameworks and procedures to the extent possible, provided that national procedures do not conflict with international legal framworks and standards (e.g. integrating elements of the national child protection systems into the the Best Interests Procedures for refugee children or integrating foster care models piloted in refugee settings into national child protection systems
Including refugee children in national legal/policy frameworks and services	• Actions that support public authorities to provide child protection and social welfare services in refugee response • Actions that prevent the creation of duplicate systems • Actions that leverage partnerships to strengthen, expand and capacitate national child protection and social welfare systems

Consider including or adapting some of the following strategies into your Action Plan to support child protection system strengthening in your context:

- Identify and integrate elements of the existing child protection system into the refugee response

- Identify areas of the refugee child protection response that can serve as an entry point for strengthening the national child protection system. E.g.; judicial proceedings for determining custody, or shelters for victims of violence
- Include resources for strengthening child protection systems when mobilizing resources
- Conduct advocacy to increase political will on inclusion of refugee children (i.e. sharing examples of promising practice from low-resource countries who have success addressing refugee influxes or long-standing refugee populations)
- Advocate for increased investment of bilateral donors into national social welfare and justice services in refugee hosting areas
- Strengthen the capacity of the social service workforce to address the needs of refugee children.[27]

Key to the mapping process is reflecting on how our work can better protect and support refugee children. The concrete actions that can be done to strengthen inclusion are a core component of this tool.

For further concrete examples promoting inclusion please explore *UNHCR and UNICEF Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems: Promising practices and lessons learned* and *Child Protection Practices in UNHCR*.

Checklist for implementing the mapping workshop(s)
- Develop and distribute background materials to participants prior to the mapping workshop(s)
- Use the Mapping Tool in consultation with stakeholders to assess the accessibility, appropriateness, affordability, and acceptability of the national child protection system and to determine the degree to which the system includes refugee children
- Foster the sharing experiences from other countries or relevant Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Develop a *draft* Action Plan to support the inclusion of refugee children in the national child protection system

2.3. Stage 3: Finalizing the action plan

A follow-up meeting should be held very shortly after the mapping workshop(s) to refine and prioritize the draft action plan and to follow up with stakeholders (including child refugees).

The finalization of the action plan is important, but it should be viewed as a living, evolving document with a focus on how its use can concretely impact refugee children as the priority. The priority should be on moving forward with the process.

Throughout this process key stakeholders should keep in mind how the process and action plan can be integrated into national child protection plans, or interagency refugee response plans, or the plans of UNHCR and UNICEF.

Checklist for finalizing the action plan

- Hold a follow-up meeting after the mapping workshop(s) to refine and prioritize the draft action plan
- Request formal endorsement of the finalized action plan (government, UNHCR, UNICEF, other key stakeholders)
- Follow up with stakeholders (including child refugees & their families) to share the results of the mapping (including the action plan) and receive feedback

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[27] UNHCR and UNICEF, Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems: Guidance for Practitioners in East Africa, 2017.

Part 3: The Mapping Tool

See *Part 4: Step-by-step Guide to the Mapping Tool* for detailed guidance on this mapping tool.

What is the context in your country?	
How long have refugees been present in your country? (Select all that apply)	New refugee influx; Protracted refugee response; Both
What is the economic context in your country?	Low income; Middle income; High income
Who is working to assist refugees in your country? (Select all that apply)	National authorities; Local civil society organizations; UN organizations; All of the above
Which groups are being assisted in your country?	a) Refugees only; b) Refugees & Internally Displaced People (IDPs); c) Refugees & Migrants; d) b & c
Are you working in a context with a small, medium, or large sized refugee population?	Under 5,000 refugees; Between 5-10,000 refugees; Over 10,000 refugees

Section 1. The operational context	
1.1. General questions	
1.1.1. Who has been working on CP systems strengthening in your country? (Select all that apply)	National authorities; Local civil society organizations; UN organizations; All of the above
1.1.2. Who has been working on inclusion of refugee children in your country? (Select all that apply)	National authorities; Local civil society organizations; UN organizations; All of the above
1.1.3. Where do refugees reside in your country? (Select all that apply)	Urban; Rural; Camp;
1.1.4. What is the role of government authorities in strengthening inclusion?	Leadership Participating Not very involved
1.1.5. Which actors were involved in the mapping process in your context? (List)	National authorities: Please specify which ones; Local civil society organizations: Please specify which ones; UN organizations: Please specify which ones
1.1.6. At what level was the mapping carried out?	National Subnational Both
1.1.7. When was the mapping completed?	Day/Month/Year
1.1.8. Who inputted the data?	Full name(s)/Title/Organization(s)
1.2. Entry points for inclusion of refugee children	
1.2.1. What are the key national and sub-national priorities that can be used as entry points in your context? (Select all that apply)	*Refugee financing:* World Bank efforts to support financing in-country (*sufficient refugee protection criteria must be met*) Annual budget processes at the national (and often sub-national) level *National or subnational planning*

	Poverty Reduction Strategies UN planning processes/Country Refugee Response Plans National voluntary reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals Initiatives by Regional Economic Communities in your region Development/revision of national CP policies/minimum standards *Services:* Development of National SOPs for the protection of Children on the Move (inclusive of IDPs, irregular migrants, asylum seeking and refugee children both nationals and non-nationals) Blueprint implementation *Data collection and monitoring systems:* Information management systems (civil registration and CP case management) (National) surveys Data governance
1.2.2. What are the challenges for inclusion of refugee children?	Funding; Government doesn't want to include refugees; Lack of coordination between different authorities; All of the above; Other, please specify:………

Section 2. The legal and regulatory framework [28]	Yes	Partial	No
2.1. Child Protection and Child Rights Laws and Policies			
2.1.1. Is the main national legislation on child rights non-discriminatory towards and inclusive of refugee children? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 1, question 3.)	Explicitly allows; Neither allows or restricts; Explicitly does not allow access		
2.1.2. Do legal provisions & policies in your context include refugee children in: Birth registration Protection from child marriage Justice for children (children as alleged offenders, children as witnesses) Protection from Child labour Family law and custody issues Alternative care Other	Explicitly includes; Applies to all children in the territory so Implicitly includes; Neither includes nor excludes; Included in some not included in others; Explicitly excludes		
2.1.3. Are refugee children included in national policies on social welfare for children (i.e. Alternative Care, etc.)? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 1, question 5).	Explicitly includes; Applies to all children in the territory so Implicitly includes; Neither includes nor excludes; Included in some not included in others; Explicitly excludes		
2.1.4. Are refugee children included in national policies on justice for children (i.e. for alleged offenders, victims or witnesses, etc.)? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 1, question 6).	Explicitly includes; Applies to all children in the territory so Implicitly includes; Neither includes		

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[28] Please note that the headings and sub-titles for this framework are taken from UNICEF Child Protection Systems Paper Series 2021, 2: Phases of CP Systems Strengthening and Benchmarks (with some slight changes).

		Yes	Partial	No
		nor excludes; Included in some not included in others; Explicitly excludes		
2.2.	**Refugee Laws and Policies**	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
2.2.1.	Do national asylum laws provide for access of refugee children to national child protection systems? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 1, question 1).	Asylum procedures do not exist and/or not signatory; Explicitly allows; Neither allows or restricts; Explicitly does not allow access		
2.2.2.	Do these laws create a separate system of child protection services from the child protection services for national children?	Yes No		
2.2.3.	Does national legislation allow for immigration detention of asylum-seeking children (with or without their families)?	Yes No		
2.2.4.	Is immigration detention of asylum-seeking children happening in practice?	Yes, No, Sometimes, please specify why ____		

		Yes	Partial	No
2.3.	**Child-friendly Protection Procedures[29]**	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
2.3.1.	**Arrival and Reception**	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
2.3.1.1.	Do existing policies, practices, procedures, or laws hinder access to the territory?	¨	¨	¨
2.3.1.2.	Are children who arrive irregularly detained (in contravention of international norms)?	¨	¨	¨
2.3.1.3.	Do policies, practices and procedures ensure children are not separated from their families, caregivers when providing accommodation at the reception facility?	¨	¨	¨
2.3.1.4.	Are national asylum procedures child friendly? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 1, Q2)	Asylum procedures do not exist and/or not signatory; Explicitly allows; Neither allows or restricts; Explicitly does not allow access		
2.3.1.5.	Are children provided with information that:	Is in their own language (or with appropriate translation)? Is accessible and adapted to any (dis)abilities? Respects cultural and religious traditions? Is age-/education sensitive?		
2.3.1.6.	Do arrival and reception arrangements provide children with basic services (recreation, learning, health care, food, shelter) that:	Is in their own language (or with appropriate translation)? Is accessible and adapted to any (dis)abilities? Respects cultural and religious traditions? Is age-/education sensitive? Is appropriate to family-size / separation status?		
2.3.1.7.	Are there formal procedures that encourage and support children to participate at each step of the process?	¨	¨	¨
2.3.1.8.	Are the appropriate procedures in place for identifying and supporting children at risk?	¨	¨	¨

[29] UNHCR Technical Guidance: Child Friendly Procedures, 2021.

	Yes	Partial	No
2.3.1.9. Are the care arrangements for UASC integrated into the national child protection/social welfare services?	Please specify:		
2.3.1.10. If the reception arrangements are currently not sufficiently child-friendly, what efforts are underway with the respective national authorities to address this?	Please specify:		
2.3.2. Registration	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
2.3.2.1. Is the physical space that is used accessible, welcoming and ensures privacy?	..	..	..
2.3.2.2. Are staff friendly, supportive and able to provide information in the child's language (which includes provision of translation services including sign-language interpretation when necessary)?	..	..	..
2.3.2.3 Are interviewers trained in child protection, referral and techniques on interviewing children?	..	..	..
2.3.2.4 Are individual documentation (proof of registration or other certificates) issued for children?	..	..	..
2.3.3. Asylum procedures	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
2.3.3.1. Does the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedure take into account the child's best interests and follow child-friendly standards according to age, gender, maturity, diversity and specific needs?[30]	..	..	..
2.3.3.2. Are staff who interact with children trained on child-specific forms and manifestations of persecution and are experienced in interviewing children and assessing their claims?	..	..	..
2.3.3.3. Is information on the procedure, timeframe and options provided to the child and persons representing and/or accompanying the child in a format that is child-friendly, language, (dis)abilities and literacy-level sensitive?	..	..	..
2.3.3.4 Do children have access to free legal representation during asylum procedures?	..	..	..
2.3.3.5. If yes, is this support made available as soon as possible to the child?	..	..	..
2.3.3.6. Are deadlines and appeals processes adapted based in children's best interests, vulnerabilities and protection situation?	..	..	..
2.3.3.7 Is an assessment made to determine whether it is in the child's best interests to be interviewed?	..	..	..
2.3.3.8. Is the guardian/legal adviser present during the interview?	..	..	..
2.3.3.9. Does the child have sufficient time to prepare prior to the asylum interview?	..	..	..
2.3.3.10. Are evidentiary safeguards in place (e.g. guidance for applying the burden of proof, safeguards so examiners consider objective information such as country of origin and child-specific persecution)?	..	..	..
2.3.3.11. Are there policies, practices and procedures to ensure children found not eligible for refugee status have access to alternative forms of protection?	..	..	..
2.3.4. Solutions	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
2.3.4.1. Do available solutions include: (Select all that apply)	Voluntary repatriation, Resettlement, Local integration, Complementary pathways for the admission of refugees to third countries/ resettlement		
2.3.4.2. Is information on the procedure, timeframe and options provided to the child and persons representing and/or accompanying the child in a format that is child-friendly, language, (dis)abilities and literacy-level sensitive?	..	..	..
2.3.4.3. For separated children, is Best Interests Assessment conducted when identifying the most appropriate solution?	..	..	..
2.3.4.4. For unaccompanied children, is a Best Interests Determination conducted when identifying the most appropriate solution?	..	..	..
2.3.4.5. For other children at risk, is due consideration given to their best interests when identifying the most appropriate solutions?	..	..	..
2.3.4.6. Are children's view given due weight within the procedure and decision-making?	..	..	..
2.3.4.7. Are children, their parents and caregivers counselled on available options?	..	..	..
2.3.5. Feedback and response mechanisms on Child Friendly Procedures[31]	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
2.3.5.1. Are child-friendly feedback and response mechanisms integrated into each of the protection procedures?	..	..	..

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[30] UNHCR Technical Guidance: Child Friendly Procedures, 2021.
[31] UNHCR Technical Guidance: Child Friendly Procedures, 2021.

	Yes	Partial	No
2.3.5.2. Are children and their communities aware of these mechanisms, and are they accessible to children of different age, gender and diversities?	¨	¨	¨
2.3.5.3. Do children have access to these complaints and feedback mechanisms? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section VI, Q2, here we mean for asylum-seeking children)	Yes, in all areas; Yes, in many areas; Yes, in some areas; No, not at all		
2.3.5.4. Do SOPs and guidelines for feedback and response mechanisms have clear roles and responsibilities for handling issues raised by children?	Yes, in all areas; Yes, in many areas; Yes, in some areas; No, not at all		
2.3.6. Participation	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
2.3.6.1. Are children ensured the opportunity to participate in each stage of the process for their care, including decision-making? (Select all that apply) Arrival & reception Registration Asylum Solutions	¨	¨	¨
2.3.7. Potential changes and action items for the legal and regulatory framework			
2.3.7.1. What potential changes are required to better address inclusion in the legal and regulatory framework?	Please specify:		

Section 3. Governance and Coordination[32]	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
3.1 Government leadership			
3.1.1. At the national level, which authority leads on Child Protection? (who is responsible for the inter-sectoral government coordination on child protection?)	Please specify:		
3.1.2 Are they present where refugees reside?	Please specify:		
3.1.3. Does the authority responsible for child protection have some specific responsibility and mandate for refugee children? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 2, Q1)	5 yes systematically and substantially addresses it; 4 regularly addresses; 3 sometimes addresses; 2 rarely addresses; 1 never addresses		
3.1.4. Does the national child protection coordination mechanism also address the protection of refugee children? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 2, Q2)	5 yes systematically and substantially addresses it; 4 regularly addresses; 3 sometimes addresses; 2 rarely addresses; 1 never addresses		
3.1.5. At the national level, who is the authority responsible for refugees?	Please specify:		
3.1.6. Are they present where refugees reside?	Yes No Partially		
3.1.7. At the sub-national/ field level, which authority/ies are responsible for the protection of refugee children?	Please specify:		
3.2. National and decentralized child protection plans	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
3.2.1. Are the overall CP multisectoral frameworks inclusive of refugee children? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator Section 1, Q4)	Yes, explicitly includes; Applies to all children in the territory so implicitly includes; Neither includes nor excludes; Included in some not included in others; Explicitly excludes		

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[32] In UNICEF Child Protection Systems Paper Series 2021, 2: Phases of CP Systems Strengthening and Benchmarks referred to as: Governance structures, including coordination across government departments, between levels of decentralization and between formal and informal actors.

	Yes	Partial	No
3.2.2. In the geographic region(s) where refugees live, do field/sub-national child protection plans explicitly include refugee children?	¨	¨	¨
3.3. Inter-ministerial and inter-agency Coordination	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
3.3.1. At the national level, is there inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms on the protection of children?	Yes No Other, explain		
3.3.2. If yes, does it cover refugee children's issues?	Yes No Partially, explain		
3.3.3. If there is a specific coordination mechanism for child protection for refugees, do government authorities lead or participate?	5 fully lead; 4 lead but require significant support to do so; 3 participate fully; 2 participate sometimes; 1 do not participate; 0 there is no specific coordination mechanism for CP for refugees		
3.3.4. Does effective coordination exist between national child protection and refugee authorities?	5 fully coordinated; 4 largely coordinated; 3 some coordination; 2 poor/little coordination; 1 no coordination		
3.3.5. At the national level, is there a coordination mechanism for refugee children's protection that brings together government institutions, UN agencies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)?	Yes No Other, explain		
3.3.6. At the sub-national/field level, is there a coordination mechanism for refugee children's protection that brings together government institutions, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)?	Yes No Other, explain		
3.4 Potential changes and action items for governance and coordination			
3.4.1. What potential changes are required in order to better address inclusion through governance and coordination?	Please specify:		

4. Services[33]	
4.1. Child protection services	
4.1.1. Are national authorities' child protection services available in areas where refugees reside? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 3, Q1)	5 fully available; 4 largely available; 3 some gaps in services available; 2 very limited services available; 1 no services
4.1.2. Are local civil society child protection services available in areas where refugees live? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 3, Q2)	5 fully available; 4 largely available; 3 some gaps in services available; 2 very limited services available; 1 no services

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[33] See Annex 3 List of child protection services.

4.1.3. Can refugee children and families access these government or local civil society child protection services? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 3, Q3)	5 fully accessible; 4 largely accessible; 3 somewhat accessible; 2 limited accessibility; 1 no access
4.1.4. Do these government or local civil society child protection services have sufficient capacity to respond to the needs of refugee and host community children in the areas where most refugees live? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 3, Q4)	5 full capacity; 4 very good capacity; 3 limited capacity, need much assistance/support; 2 very limited capacity; 1 no capacity
4.1.5. Are the following services available to refugee children in multiple governorates/counties? 2 Birth registration; 3 Child friendly justice; 4 Social welfare services; 5 Family courts accessible to refugee children 6 Shelter for victims of violence; 7 Family based alternative care; Other ____	5: 80-100% of services are available; 4: Between 60 – 79% of services are available; 3: 40-59 % of services are available; 2: 20-39 % of services are available; 1: 0-19% of services are available
4.1.6. Are asylum procedures available for children in all governorates/counties?	5: 80-100% of services are available; 4: Between 60 – 79% of services are available; 3: 40-59 % of services are available; 2: 20-39 % of services are available; 1: 0-19% of services are available
4.2. Documentation Services (Civil registration and refugee registration)	
4.2.1. Birth registration: Does this service exist in locations where refugees live? If yes, then ask/skip to the following questions:	Yes No Partial
4.2.2. Can refugees access these services?	5 fully accessible; 4 largely accessible; 3 somewhat accessible; 2 limited accessibility; 1 no access
4.2.3. Do they have sufficient capacity to address the needs of refugees and host communities?	5 full capacity; 4 large capacity; 3 some capacity; 2 limited capacity; 1 no capacity
4.2.4. What is the general quality of these services?	5 Excellent quality/meets international standards; 4 very good quality; 3 good quality 2 limited quality; 1 very poor quality
4.2.5. What are some of the key improvements required for these services in general?	Please specify
4.2.6. Do refugee face specific barriers to access these services and if so, what are they?	Please specify
4.2.7. Are the staff working in these services trained to deal with the specific needs and situation of refugee children?	5 fully trained; 4 largely trained; 3

	somewhat trained; 2 limited training; 1 no training
4.2.8. Who provides the majority of these services?	National authorities UN Civil society
4.2.9. Marriage registration for parents: Does this service exist in locations where refugees live? If yes, then ask/skip to the following questions:	Yes No Partial
4.2.10. Can refugees access these services?	5 fully accessible; 4 largely accessible; 3 somewhat accessible; 2 limited accessibility; 1 no access
4.2.12. Do they have sufficient capacity to address the needs of refugees and host communities?	Yes No Partial
4.2.13. What is the general quality of these services and what some of the key improvements required for these services in general?	5 Excellent quality; 4 very good quality; 3 good quality 2 limited quality; 1 very poor quality
4.2.14. Do refugee face specific barriers to access these services and if so, what are they?	Please specify
4.2.15. Do these services have the capacity to address the specific needs of refugee children?	5 full capacity; 4 large capacity; 3 some capacity; 2 limited capacity; 1 no capacity
4.2.16. Are the staff working in these services trained to deal with the specific needs and situation of refugee children?	5 fully trained; 4 largely trained; 3 somewhat trained; 2 limited training; 1 no training
4.2.17. Who provides the majority of these services?	National authorities UN Civil society

4.3. Social Welfare services:	Yes	No	Partial
4.3.1. Do these services exist in locations where refugees live? If yes, then ask/skip to the following questions:	¨	¨	¨
4.3.2. Can refugees access these services?	¨	¨	¨
4.3.3. Do the staff have sufficient capacity to address the needs of refugees and host communities?	¨	¨	¨
4.3.4. What is the general quality of these services?	5 Excellent quality/meet international standards; 4 very good quality; 3 good quality 2 limited quality; 1 very poor quality		
4.3.5. What are some of the key improvements required for these services in general?	Please specify		
4.3.6. Do refugee face specific barriers to access these services and if so, what are they?	Please specify		
4.3.7. Do these services have the capacity to address the specific needs of refugee children?	5 full capacity; 4 large capacity;		

	3 some capacity; 2 limited capacity; 1 no capacity
4.3.8. Are the staff working in these services trained to deal with the specific needs and situation of refugee children?	5 fully trained; 4 largely trained; 3 somewhat trained; 2 limited training; 1 no training
4.3.9. Who provides the majority of these services?	National authorities UN Civil society
4.3.10. Are there any specific groups of refugees whose needs are not met or who are discriminated against? (i.e. girls, children with disability)	Please specify what needs are not being met Girl refugees _____ Refugee children with disabilities _____ LBGTI+ Refugee children _____ Other, please specify_____

Specific services for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)	Yes	Partial	No
Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR)			
4.3.11. Are refugee UASC included/prioritized for family tracing and reunification?	¨	¨	¨
4.3.12. If yes, are FTR decisions made based on assessment of children's best interests, their views and considerations for their safety?	¨	¨	¨
4.3.13. Do refugee children who have been reunified receive regular follow-up by national social workers or paraprofessionals?	¨	¨	¨
Alternative Care			
4.3.14. Are national alternative care services available for all children?	¨	¨	¨
4.3.15. Do national alternative care services actively promote and support family-based alternative care or supervised independent living arrangements over institutional care?	¨	¨	¨
4.3.16. If yes, are national alternative care services available for refugee children?	¨	¨	¨
4.3.17. Do national alternative care services for refugee children assess, recognise and support spontaneously established care arrangements (i.e. care by a relative in the case of separated children, care by others close to the child, independent living arrangements)	¨	¨	¨
4.3.18. Do refugee children in alternative care receive regular follow-up by national social worker or paraprofessionals?	¨	¨	¨
Guardianship			
4.3.20. Are all children accompanied by an adult support person they trust (parent, older sibling, friend) while they are participating in a protection procedure?[34](Please respond for each procedure) Arrival & Reception Registration RSD Solutions	¨	¨	¨
4.3.21. Is the guardian/representative fully informed of the procedures and asked to provide consent in line with the best interests of the child?[35]	¨	¨	¨
4.3.22. If no adult support person they trust (parent, older sibling, friend) is available, is one immediately appointed for them who will act as their guardian?	¨	¨	¨

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[34] UNHCR Technical Guidance: Child Friendly Procedures, 2021.
[35] UNHCR Technical Guidance: Child Friendly Procedures, 2021.

4.3.23. When guardians are appointed, are they provided training, including refresher trainings?	¨	¨	¨
4.4. Child Protection case management and referral systems			
4.4.1. Are refugee children included in national case management service provision?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.2. Can refugee children access national case management services?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.3. Are refugee children included in national referral services?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.4. Are national social workers familiar trained on identifying and assessing risks and experiences of refugee and asylum-seeking children?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.5. Do individual assessments support children's meaningful participation and give due weight to their views and best interests?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.6. Are border officials and asylum actors trained on identifying, assessing risks and referring refugee and asylum-seeking children?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.7. Do national case management tools include provisions to assess the flight history, specific risks and options for solutions for refugee and asylum-seeking children?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.8. Are refugee children at risk systematically referred to support services after assessment?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.9. Does the State have a BID / judicial process in place for asylum and refugee seeking children?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.10. If yes, are national Best Interests Determination / judicial processes accessible to refugee and asylum-seeking children?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.11. Do national BID/judicial procedures take into account the specific risks and experiences of refugee and asylum-seeking children?	¨	¨	¨
4.4.12. Do national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for case management include procedures and roles & responsibilities for responding to refugee and asylum-seeking children at risk?	Please specify:		
4.4.13. Do national child protection information management systems include data fields to document and analyze the specific aspects of flight, asylum and refugee status?	Please specify:		
4.4.14. Are refugee children receiving the same level of follow up as national children?	Please specify:		
4.4.15. What are the barriers to refugee children receiving following up?	Please specify:		
4.5. Justice services:			
4.5.1. Do these services exist in locations where refugees live? If yes, then ask/skip to the following questions:	¨	¨	¨
4.5.2. Can refugees access these services?	¨	¨	¨
4.5.3. Do the staff have sufficient capacity to address the needs of refugees and host communities?	¨	¨	¨
4.5.4. What is the general quality of these services?	5 Excellent quality/meet international standards; 4 very good quality; 3 good quality 2 limited quality; 1 very poor quality		
4.5.6. What are some of the key improvements required for these services in general?	Please specify:		
4.5.7. Do refugee face specific barriers to access these services and if so, what are they?	Please specify:		
4.5.8. Do these services have the capacity to address the specific needs of refugee children?	5 full capacity; 4 large capacity; 3 some capacity; 2 limited capacity; 1 no capacity		
4.5.9. Are the staff working in these services trained to deal with the specific needs and situation of refugee children?	5 fully trained; 4 largely trained; 3 somewhat trained; 2		

	limited training; 1 no training
4.5.10. Who provides the majority of these services?	National authorities UN Civil society
4.511. Are there specific entry points for strengthening the system? [36]	Please specify:

5. Minimum standards and oversight (monitoring and accountability mechanisms)	Yes	Partial	No
5.1. Availability of independent accountability and oversight mechanisms for child protection			
5.1.1. Is there a mechanism for the authorities to provide oversight and monitoring of the quality of the services provided for refugees and host communities?	Yes, regularly used; Yes, somewhat; No, not at all		
5.1.2. Where refugee specific child protection SOPs exist, do they appropriately integrate relevant standards and services from the national child protection system? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section IV, Q4)	Yes, always; Yes, sometimes; No, never		
5.1.3. Are refugee children included in national referral mechanisms?	..	..	..
5.1.4. Are the appropriate cross-border case management systems in place for refugee children?	..	..	..
5.1.5. Have clear, independent accountability and oversight of systems been established independent of government that include refugee children?	..	..	..
5.2. Monitoring and oversight of minimum standards for child protection services	Yes	Partial	No
5.2.1. Is there a mechanism for the authorities to provide oversight and monitoring of the quality of the services provided for refugees and host communities? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section IV, Q3)	Yes, always; Yes, sometimes; No, never		
5.2.2. Do the national authorities conduct regular monitoring of child protection services to ensure the provision of quality services?	..	..	..
5.2.3. Do national minimum standards for child protection services exist? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section IV, Q1)	Yes, regularly used; Yes, somewhat; No, not at all		
5.2.4. Are refugee children included in these standards?	..	..	..
5.2.5. If yes, do the child protection services provided for refugees and host communities comply with these national standards? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section IV, Q2)	Yes, fully comply; Yes, somewhat comply; No, do not comply		
5.3 Potential changes and action items for minimum standards and oversight			
5.3.1. What potential changes are required in order to better address inclusion in minimum standards and oversight, including monitoring and accountability mechanisms?	Please specify:		

6. Human, financial and infrastructure resources	Yes	Partial	No
6.1. Accreditation			
6.1.1. Is there an accreditation system in place for the social service workforce? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 5, Q1)	Yes, for professional SSW; Yes, for professional and para-professional SSW; No, not in place;		

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[36] For example, sometimes the need to provide alternative care for large numbers of refugee children during an influx or arrivals can help to pilot or scale up foster care models, or pilot supervised independent living arrangements.

	Don't know		
6.1.2. If yes, are the child protection staff working in refugee and host communities accredited? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section 5, Q2)	All; Most; Some; Few; None		
6.1.3. Can refugees become accredited? (UNHR Inclusion Indicator, Section 5, Q3)	Yes, for professional SSW; Yes, for professional and para-professional SSW; No, not in place; Don't know		
6.2 Training and capacity building			
6.2.1. To what extent are the following staff trained on Child Friendly procedures? Border officials Immigration officials Police Social workers	5 fully trained; 4 largely trained; 3 somewhat trained; 2 limited training; 1 no training		
6.2.2. Do college or training institute curricula include training on the needs of refugees or refugee children?	¨	¨	¨
6.2. Financing of child protection services	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
6.2.1. Does the government fund child protection services for refugees?	5: Yes, they provide all of this funding; 4: Yes, they provide significant funding; 3: Yes, they provide some funding; 2: No, they provide no funding 1: Don't know		
6.2.2. Do they receive assistance to support refugees?	5: Yes, they receive significant funding for refugees; 4: Yes, they receive some funding for refugees; 3: Yes, they receive a small amount of funding for refugees; 2: No, they receive no additional funding; 1: Don't know		
6.2.3. If the government receives additional funding where is it from?	Please specify:		
6.2.4. Do international actors provide financial support to authorities and/or local civil society organisations to provide child protection services in refugee and host communities? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section V, Q4)	5: Yes, they provide most of this funding; 4: Yes, they provide significant funding; 3: Yes, they provide valuable additional funding; 2: Yes, there is some additional funding 1: No, there is no additional funding		
6.2.5. If so, who provides it?	Please specify:		
6.2.6. If not, why not?	Please specify:		
6.2.2. Have national child protection services/ministries received increased funding to address the increased demand for services as a result of the refugee situation/influx?	¨	¨	¨
6.2.4. Do national budgets include specific provisions for services to meet the needs of refugee children?	¨	¨	¨

6.2.5. If yes, is the amount allocated sufficient?	..	..	..
6.2.6. If partial or no, what efforts are being done to rectify the situation?	Please specify:		
6.2.7. Are UNHCR and UNICEF actively involved in the national annual budget preparation cycle (especially UNICEF Social Policy colleagues)?	..	..	..
6.2.8. If partial or no, what efforts are underway to address this?	Please specify:		
6.3 Potential changes and action items for human, financial and infrastructure resources			
6.3.1. What potential changes are required in order to better address inclusion through human, financial and infrastructure resources?	Please specify:		

7. Mechanisms for child participation and community engagement	Yes	Partial	No
7.1. Complaints mechanisms for children	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
7.1.1. Do the child protection services provided in refugee hosting areas have complaints and feedback mechanisms? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section VI, Q1)	Yes, in all areas; Yes, in many areas; Yes, in some areas; No, not at all		
7.1.2. If yes, who has a complaints mechanism?	Please specify:		
7.1.2. Do refugee children have access to these complaints and feedback mechanisms? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section VI, Q2)	Yes, in all areas; Yes, in many areas; Yes, in some areas; No, not at all		
7.1.3. Is there an independent body/authority that accepts complaints by or on behalf of children, including refugee children, who are refused or who receive child protection services? (for example a Child Rights Commissioner, Ombudsperson, etc.)	Yes No Don't know		
7.1.5. If yes, please specify:	Please specify:		
7.1.4. Is it accessible to refugee children?	Yes, in all areas; Yes, in many areas; Yes, in some areas; No, not at all		
7.2. Child and adolescent empowerment for child protection	**Yes**	**Partial**	**No**
7.2.1. Do existing community-based child protection programmes include refugees? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section VI, Q3)	Yes, in all areas; Yes, in many areas; Yes, in some areas; No, not at all		
7.2.2. If yes, what programmes include refugee children?	Please specify:		
7.2.3. If no, why not?	Please specify:		
7.3. Community based child protection programmes			
7.3.1. Do existing community based child protection programmes include refugees?	Yes, in all areas; Yes, in many areas; Yes, in some areas; No, not at all		
7.3.2. Are there any community based child protection programmes for refugees?	Yes, in all areas; Yes, in many areas; Yes, in some areas; No, not at all		
7.3.3. If yes, are they linked to the formal system/services?	Yes, in all areas; Yes, in many areas; Yes, in some areas; No, not at all		
7.3.4. Are refugees involved in leading any of these initiatives/programmes?	Yes, in all areas; Yes, in many areas;		

	Yes, in some areas; No, not at all
7.3.5. If yes, which ones?	Please specify:
7.3. Potential changes and action items for child participation and community engagement	
7.3.1. What potential changes are required in order to better address inclusion in mechanisms for child participation and community engagement?	Please specify:

8. Data collection and monitoring system	
8.1. Administrative data systems	

8.1.1.   Is there timely and safe exchange between child protection & refugee authorities on refugee data?
  1.   Social welfare
  2.   Justice
  3.   Birth registration
(UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section VII, Q1)
	Yes, data is systematically and regularly shared; Yes, some data is shared; No, there is no timely, appropriate sharing between different systems

8.2. Surveys	
8.2.1. Are refugee children included in national surveys or assessments on child protection? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section VII, Q2)	Yes, systematically and regularly included; Yes, sometimes; No, this data does not include refugee children
8.2.2. If yes, which ones?	Please specify:
8.2.3. If not, why not?	Please specify:
8.2.4. If yes, is the reporting disaggregated for refugees?	Yes, systematically and regularly disaggregated; Yes, sometimes disaggregated; No, this data is not disaggregated/does not include refugees
8.2.5. If refugee children are included in national surveys and/or administrative data systems is the information systematically and regularly used?	Yes, data is systematically and regularly used; Yes, sometimes; No, this information is not used
8.3. Case management systems	
8.3.1. Is there timely and safe exchange between child protection & refugee authorities on refugee data? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section VII, Q3).	Yes, data is systematically and regularly shared; Yes, some data is shared; No, there is no timely, appropriate sharing between different systems
8.3.2. If there are separate child protection and refugee protection case management information management systems in the country, is data safely shared between these two systems?	Yes, data is systematically and regularly shared;

	Yes, some data is shared; No, there is no timely, appropriate sharing between different systems
8.3.3. Is there (sufficient) interoperability between information management systems at the field and national levels?	Yes, data is systematically and regularly shared; Yes, some data is shared; No, there is no timely, appropriate interoperability between different systems
8.4. Data governance (coordination, oversight and secure management)	
8.4.1. Do the national authorities conduct field visits to assess needs and monitor the situation?	Yes, regularly carried out (several times a year); Yes, sometimes carried out (on an ad-hoc manner); No, missions are not carried out
8.4.2. Where data is collected on refugee children in national child protection systems are data protection standards in place to ensure refugee children's data is protected? (UNHCR Inclusion Indicator, Section VII, Q4)	Yes, refugee children's data is always systematically protected; Yes, there is some data protection (depends on the system); No, the data does not protect refugee data; No, the data does not have any data protection (writ large)
8.5. Potential changes and action items for data collection and monitoring	
8.5.1. What potential changes are required in order to better address inclusion in data collection and monitoring systems?	Please specify:

Part 4: Step-by-step Guide to the Mapping Tool

The Mapping Tool uses a "traffic light system" to help you assess your context. As you conduct your mapping, choose your responses according to the descriptions below.

- **Yes = Green light**
  - Indicates most aspects are working/functioning well and need little/less reinforcement
  - Should demonstrate that key stakeholders are working together
  - May be an area of lower priority, allowing you to focus on other areas that need work in your context

- **Partial = Amber light**
  - Indicates that some aspects may be working/functioning well while others may need improvement
  - Suggests that stakeholders should work together to determine who is best placed to lead improvement in this area
  - Identifies areas that should probably be included in the National Plan of Action

- **No = Red light**: *highlights that changes/improvements/support are likely needed here*
  - Indicates that this area could be a priority area for intervention as many aspects may need changes/improvements
  - Identifies areas that should be prioritized in the National Plan of Action
    - Is this function covered by another entity/partner?
    - What support can key stakeholders provide in this area without creating duplicate systems?
    - Are there short-term solutions than can be used while developing long-term solutions?

4.1. Section 1: The operational context

Systems strengthening work should focus on reinforcing the overall national child protection system so that all children, including refugee children, benefit equitably. While this toolkit focuses on the inclusion of refugee children, the outcomes of the mapping will also indicate opportunities for ensuring inclusion of all children or gaps to address to include particularly vulnerable children, including strengthening the system in general. The step-by-step guidance in this section provides key considerations for conducting the mapping. You may choose to make adjustments according to your context.

The first section of the mapping tool will help you get a general sense of certain aspects of the national child protection system in your context: the stakeholders, system priorities, and potential entry points for the inclusion of refugee children.

Stakeholder collaboration

The mapping should be conducted as part of a process between key stakeholders to assess the current national Child Protection System landscape in the target context/country. This is an opportunity to encourage a shift in leadership by emphasizing the Government's primary responsibility and accountability for inclusion.[37] Additional benefits of the mapping include:

- Strengthening existing working relationships and coordination;
- Bringing different ministries together who may not usually work together on a regular basis;
- Promoting further engagement from senior government officials;
- Facilitating a stronger cross-cutting, inter-sectoral and Whole of Government approach to protecting refugee children
- Increasing engagement from senior management in UN and other organizations; and
- Engaging directly with refugee and host communities, including refugee children and youth.

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[37] UNICEF, Review of Child Protection Systems in Four Countries in South Asia, UNICEF, Kathmandu, 2018.

The questions in this section will help you determine what existing relationships can support greater inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems and what relationships need to be strengthened or developed. Be sure to consider and include the following stakeholders:

- Government ministries
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- Other UN agencies
- Refugees, including children
- Host communities
- Implementing partners
- Donors

National child protection system priorities

Each context has its own regional, national, and sub-national priorities. You can identify these priorities and their influence on refugee children by examining:

- National Strategic Plans (e.g. National Plans to Combat Violence against children)
- Responses to particular needs (e.g. Alternative care for refugee children during a sudden influx may be an opportunity to revise national guidelines)
- Country Refugee Response Plans
- Blueprint implementation[38]

Entry points for inclusion of refugee children

Previous mapping exercises on child protection systems (though not specifically inclusion) revealed that strengthening national child protection systems is more successful when efforts to strengthen the system are linked to other initiatives in country. Some examples include:

- **Implementation of new legislation or guidelines:** In Mexico the asylum law was revised to be in accordance with the new child protection law, meeting international standards.
- **External shocks:** An emergency in country (e.g. a natural disaster such as a flood or earthquake) can be damaging for the children directly involved. However, such events can also serve to bring key stakeholders together and bring in additional resources (financial and staffing) that can be leveraged for long-term systems strengthening.[39] For example including refugee children in rapid assessment or guidelines.

In order to leverage the assessment and analysis that comes out of this mapping, it is key to find the entry points in your country. There may be different opportunities at the regional, national, or sub-national levels. These may be child protection specific (see list above) or broader. Common entry points might include:

- World Bank efforts to support financing in-country (*sufficient refugee protection criteria must be met*)
- Annual budget processes at the national (and often sub-national) level
- Poverty Reduction Strategies
- National voluntary reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals
- Initiatives by Regional Economic Communities in your region
- Developing National SOPs for the protection of Children on the Move (inclusive of IDPs, irregular migrants, asylum seeking and refugee children both nationals and non-nationals)

Tapping into these (and other) opportunities and entry points for the short-, mid-, and longer terms is key to strengthening systems and determining how to make changes that have the greatest impact on the inclusion of refugee children.

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[38] Joint UNHCR UNICEF initiative in 10 countries, enhancing access for refugee children, their families, and host communities to essential services in the key areas of education, water, sanitation and hygiene, and child protection – with a focus on the inclusion of refugee children in national plans and services, moving well beyond humanitarian action with a view to longer term, sustainable solutions. Key rollout countries are: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya and Rwanda.
[39] UNICEF, Review of Child Protection Systems in Four Countries in South Asia, UNICEF, Kathmandu, 2018.

Key actions to strengthen inclusion:
- Engage both child protection and refugee authorities, as well as civil society and UN actors working on the refugee response in the process to strengthen inclusion

4.2 Section 2: The legal and regulatory framework

Section 2 of the Mapping Tool explores the child protection legislation and policies that lay out children's rights to protection and care under the law. States should respect customary international law standards relating to refugees. National child protection laws should align with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and should apply to all children within a State's jurisdiction "without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status."[40]

By analysing whether a country's national legislation and policies include (or specifically *exclude)* refugee children, stakeholders can assess whether legislative and policy reform is necessary to ensure children have appropriate access to services and adequate protection of their rights. Child protection and justice laws, refugee and asylum laws need to be inclusive and sensitive to refugee children. There should be legal provisions regarding access to care (for unaccompanied refugee children, as well as refugee children requiring protection due to violence in their household, including guardianship), and asylum (including child friendly measures including legal representation).

For refugee children, child-friendly procedures should be available and appropriately linked to national best interest procedure and child protection services. The link between the national child protection, and refugee protection systems (including reception arrangements, registration procedures, asylum procedures, asylum and refugee status determination procedures, and durable solutions) should be considered and integrated where possible.

Key actions to strengthening inclusion in the legal and regulatory framework

- Ensure child-friendly procedure are available to child refugees and are appropriately linked to national best interest procedure and child protection services
- Promote legislation and policies that provide child refugees with equal access to services

Good practice example: Legal and regulatory framework

Joint advocacy between UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, OHCHR and UNESCO in **Mexico** *allowed for the asylum law to be aligned with the Mexican General Law on the Rights of Children respecting international norms (and ending immigration detention).*

In **Spain** *UNHCR worked with the Childhood Observatory to draft a new "Model for the care system of UASC in Spain" which includes a specific chapter on refugee children and highlights their specific needs.*

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[40] UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989.

4.3 Section 3: Governance and coordination

Child Ombudspersons and independent Human Rights institutions have a valuable role to plan monitoring refugee children's rights holding national authorities to account. Coordination mechanisms in different contexts not only increase partnership and engagement with government counterparts but also enhance results for children. Coordination mechanisms for refugee children may be either separate from or a part of the national child protection coordination fora. Coordination mechanisms should generally include the needs of refugee children. Depending upon the coordination fora or your context, however, this may not be necessary.

There are different levels of coordination: local/field/implementation, sub-national and national coordination. This section of the tool assesses whether sufficient coordination between the respective ministries is in place or whether changes are needed. In some instances, the current coordination mechanisms may be working fine. In others, they can be revised to better address the needs of refugee children.

Key actions for strengthening inclusion with coordination mechanisms to promote inclusion of refugee children in national CP systems:
Use coordination mechanisms to support engagement and action around the inclusion of child refugees and the strengthening of national child protection systems through:[41]

- **Advocacy:** working together for the revision (or adoption!) of guidelines or legislation that are inclusive of refugees
- **Capacity building**: conducting joint trainings for government staff and members of coordination mechanisms that include the needs of refugee children
- **Child participation and accountability**: promoting child participation of refugee children and accountability in programmes
- **Situation assessment and monitoring:** Conducting joint needs assessments that include the needs of refugee children
- **Planning**: reinforcing efforts to include refugee children in national strategic plans or decentralized planning strategies
- **Resource mobilization:** ensuring the needs of refugee children are included in funding appeals and national budgets

Good practice example: Governance and coordination

> In **Kenya,** *joint Department for Children's Services/UNHCR/UNICEF missions are held to follow up on service delivery and implementation at the field level. Upon return to the capital and submission of joint mission reports, joint briefings are given to senior government officials promoting joint follow up and engagement.*
>
> In **Uganda**, *the Child Protection Sub-Working Group includes a focus on the refugee response. Key stakeholders are using the Refugee Response Plan and other activities to focus on strengthening the child protection system and promoting inclusion of refugee children.*

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[41] Discussion and feedback from Child Protection Coordination in Mixed Settings: Sharing Good Practices: Coordination and CP systems in mixed settings, Session 2 – June 29, 2021.

4.4 Section 4: Access to a continuum of prevention and response services

National child protection services encompass a range of prevention and response services. Not all children, nor all refugee children, are in need of child protection *response* services (i.e. family reunification, assistance to children who are victims of violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect, etc).

As previously mentioned, however, *all* children, including refugee children should have access to community-wide *prevention* programmes and services without discrimination or other barriers.[42] Access to national identification (including birth certificates), civil registration, and vital statistics (birth, death, marriage, divorce acts, etc.) services is fundamentally important to refugee children and their families.

This section assesses whether refugee children face any barriers in accessing national child protection services and what changes, if any, are needed to ensure access for refugee children. Barriers might include a lack of appropriate services in the geographic areas where refugees live or an inadequate quality of available services.

Key actions for strengthening inclusion in refugee children's access to a continuum of prevention and response services
- Develop capacity building and transition plans to gradually increase the capacity of national child protection actors
- Assess/map the availability of prevention and responses services available to refugee children; tapping into ongoing mappings and assessments

Good practice examples: Access to a continuum of prevention and response services

In **Ghana,** there are specific government pathways for managing various child protection issues. UNHCR is working with the Department of Gender to support refugee inclusion in the national system/pathways. There is also partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development (DSWCD) as well as the camp management under the Ghana Refugee Board.

In **Kenya,** the government recognizes their responsibility towards all children, so there is no need to advocate for inclusion in that context. Department of Children's Services staff are based in refugee camps, and DCS staff from the capital have carried out joint missions with UNICEF and UNHCR to assess needs and services being provided.

4.5 Section 5: Minimum standards and oversight

Government and/or independent oversight and minimum standards should be in place to adequately monitor child protection services and systems. Ideally, national or local governments conduct regular monitoring and reporting of child protection services to ensure national minimum standards are fully enforced.[43] Where appropriate, the situation of refugee children should also be monitored to assess the quality of the services they receive. Where national standards for child protection exist, child protection service providers working with refugees should adhere to these national standards wherever possible and in the best interests of refugee children to do so.

This section of the mapping can identify opportunities for strengthening the minimum standards and oversight that apply to national child protection systems (which often can be quite limited), particularly as they apply to refugee children. Here we are referring to monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

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[42] It is increasingly recognised that prevention initiatives, for example, focusing on awareness raising on preventing violence against children or parenting skills for parents or caregivers are very important in shifting behaviour change.
[43] UNICEF Child Protection Systems Paper Series. 1: The UNICEF Child Protection Systems Strengthening Approach.

Key actions for strengthening inclusion in standards and oversight
- Ombudspersons Offices should be used as key advocates for promoting and supporting standards and oversight related to refugee children

Good practice example: Minimum standards and oversight

*Child Rights Commissioners in **Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom** provide oversight to the government's response to refugee children and holding the authorities responsible for ensuring that refugee children are protected in line with national and international child rights obligations.*

4.6 Section 6: Human, financial and infrastructure resources

Funding to respective national child protection ministries and services is generally sub-optimal. There is increased recognition that increasing national budgets for child protection services is a priority. Enhancing the capacity of the social service workforce (including paraprofessionals) is also a strategic priority. This includes making sure this cadre of personnel have received training on the appropriate competencies to work with refugee children.

There are marked opportunities for meeting these priorities. UNICEF has strong experience advocating for greater public financing for children (PF4C) in national annual budget planning processes. These efforts can be tapped into for obtaining larger budgets for child protection ministries and services, including for refugee children. In low-resource settings, a refugee response can be an opportunity for strengthening some components of a child protection system. Similarly, UNHCR has strong experience advocating for funding support to national authorities who are hosting large numbers of refugees (e.g. including work with the World Bank). Both agencies have a valuable role to play in advocating so that countries supporting large numbers of refugees receive bilateral and multilateral support including for social welfare and justice services.

This section of the tool assesses the degree to which:
- There are appropriate, qualified personnel in place where refugee children live
- The social service workforce has been trained on the needs of refugee children
- The social service workforce has the appropriate competencies to provide support to refugee children
- The existing funding is sufficient to equip/pay for the social service workforce, service provision, and infrastructure resources

This analysis will help you determine gaps in human, financial, and infrastructure resources that support refugee children and identify areas where you can advocate for change.

Key actions for strengthening inclusion in human, financial and infrastructure resources
- Work in close partnership with UNICEF Social Policy colleagues who have strong experience advocating for increased budget allocation for PF4C
- Tap into lead ministries/units – Ministry of Finance, Prime Minister's Office, etc. to advocate for greater funding for inclusion of refugees' needs (& child protection) in national budgets
- Where necessary (depending on the context) pay increased attention to decentralized budgets including funding flows at the local level
- Look at how funding for the child protection refugee response can include funding for strengthening inclusion
- Review the social work training curriculum to ensure inclusion of modules re. refugee children

Good practice examples: Human, financial and infrastructure resources

> In **Burundi,** *capacity building by UNHCR and UNICEF (in collaboration with the Government through its Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender) targeted national and local authorities as well as local and international NGOs intervening in several provinces. The training was on reinforcing child protection mechanisms with a focus on refugee and returnee children. This resulted in an updated mapping of child protection services and work plans.*
>
> *UNHCR's Europe Bureau is organizing monthly peer-to-peer social work exchanges in 2021 for social workers in* **Europe**. *This is an opportunity for frontline government social workers to present, exchange and discuss issues of concern to them with colleagues across the continent. To date, social workers from* **Ireland**, **Spain**, **Iceland** *and the* **United Kingdom** *have presented.*
>
> *In* **Kenya**, *there is 10-day training for child protection staff conducted by the Kenya School of Government which includes training on refugees and a 5-day training for para social workers (including volunteers) conducted by the Department of Children's Services which includes an overview of Kenya's child protection system framework and policies.*
>
> *For UNICEF training of the social service workforce including in the* **Middle East and North Africa** *is a strategic priority. This includes making sure this cadre of personnel have received training on the appropriate competencies to work with children on the move. The government of* **Egypt,** *in partnership with UNICEF, have pushed forward this initiative by requesting International Social Services (ISS) to provide an analysis of the competencies needed for social workers to carry out their work with children on the move, inclusive of refugee children, and to identify entry points to supplement existing training material.*
>
> *Initiatives focused on professional accreditation (such as the Isibindi community childcare workers initiative in* **Zambia**) *promote sustainability as the (para-professional) workers can be absorbed by the State. In Namibia, services in the refugee camps are provided by different government ministries.*

4.7. Section 7: Mechanisms for child participation and community engagement

Children's right to be heard, both as agents of change in relation to specific issues and as recipients of child protection services, is crucial. It is important that individual children are able to:

- Contribute to decision making when they access (or fail to access) child protection procedures
- Exercise their right of complaint
- Provide feedback on their experiences with the child protection system.[44]

Particular care needs to be taken to engage and hear from all groups of children without discrimination, particularly children who tend to be excluded (such as children with disabilities; migrant, refugee and internally displaced children; or children from ethnic minority groups).[45]

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[44] With regards to services, feedback from service users is important to assess the effectiveness, efficacy and relevance of the services provided. The direct engagement and participation of children and adolescents in child protection committees or other statutory bodies that are part of the child protection system should always be age appropriate and include child safeguarding measures to protect children from exposure to harm.
[45] UNICEF, 'Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approach; Benchmarks; Interventions'.

This section of the tool helps assess the degree to which:
- Mechanisms are in place for refugee children to actively participate in feedback about services that they receive, can't access, or have complaints about
- Specialized feedback mechanisms exist in the local community
- Community-based child protection mechanisms are in place throughout the country, including in the geographic areas where refugee children reside
- Appropriate feedback loops are in place, and mainstreaming is in place where helpful
- These mechanisms are monitored through fully functional accountability mechanisms

Key actions for strengthening inclusion in mechanisms for child participation and community engagement

- Encourage practical efforts to apply the *nine basic requirements for effective and ethical participation* as a planning tool and a monitoring tool
- Reflect on whether additional feedback loops would be beneficial to receive reflections from refugees themselves (children, parents/caregivers, community leaders, etc.)
- Child helplines/hotlines are one vehicle for children and their communities to share their concerns
- Ensure feedback and complaints mechanisms are accessible to children and are child friendly
- Work with refugee networks to implement community-led child protection activities in refugee communities
- Tap into implementing partners to further engage refugees themselves (children of different genders and age groups and parents/adults) in decisions affecting them, gaining their reflections and insights

Good practice examples: Mechanisms for child participation and community engagement

In **Ecuador**, refugee and host community youth have initiated a campaign "Lo que nos une" (What unites us) focused on combating racism, xenophobia, and discrimination and promoting integration. Radio and public events to reach out the the community are held, in addition to advocacy with political leaders.

In **Jordan**, UNHCR Works with the Amani Campaign (an inter-agency inititiative) to influence the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of women, girls, men and boys related to violene, abuse and exploitation among the refugees and the host community. Consultations are regularly held with members of the refugee and host communities. A dynamic *implementation guide* has been developed.

For other examples of engaging refugee youth do look at "*Core Actions for Refugee Youth*" for an inspiring set of examples of how to engage with them at the community level.

4.8. Section 8: Data collection and monitoring systems

Appropriate and adequate care and protection for refugee children depends upon reliable disaggregated data (age, gender and diversity) on refugee and asylum-seeking children and functioning information management systems for case management (including care arrangements for UASC).

By analysing whether refugee children are included in respective data collection and monitoring systems, we will have a better understanding of how to improve services for refugee children. In addition, data can be used to assess barriers and limitations in the national system and propose areas for strengthening in order to provide better services and programmes for all children, including refugee children.

Key actions for strengthening inclusion in data collection and monitoring systems
- Tap into the Office of National Statistics in your country who have a wealth of expertise including specialized staff to strengthen data collection and monitoring (baseline studies, information management, etc.)
- Explore inclusion and disaggregation of refugees in national child protection surveys

Good practice examples: Data collection and monitoring systems

In the **Americas**, the UNHCR-initiated *Regional Safe Spaces Network (RSSN)* has been established since 2019. The RSSN is an inter-agency coordination mechanism that promotes cross-border coordination in the **North of Central America** and the countries affected by the Venezuelan situation. There are three main objectives: outreach with vulnerable people; case management and multi-sectoral services across borders (Essential Package); and information management.

In **Jordan**, the government, UNHCR, and UNICEF have carried out studies on child labour which include an analysis of the situation for refugee children. The *regional strategic framework for action* for Child Labour with the Syrian Refugee Response prioritizes key actions.

In **Kenya,** UNHCR works with the World Bank and the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics to include four refugee sites in urban areas (Nairobi), camps/settlements (Kalobeyei, Kakuma and Dadaab), and one stateless population group (the Shona) measurements of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. The results are used to inform socio-economic responses, including social protection measures by the government and international actors.

4.9. Conclusion

This mapping exercise will allow key stakeholders in your country to:
- Assess and analyse the needs and opportunities for further inclusion of refugee children in your national child protection system;
- Strengthen partnerships and coordination; and
- Work together to improve legislation, policy and service delivery.

As a result of this mapping, you and your colleagues will be able to identify opportunities, entry points, and initiatives that can be used to improve services for refugee children in your context.

Part 5: Annexes

Annex 1 – Terminology used in this Inclusion Toolkit

- **Alternative care:** Care provided for children by caregivers who are not their biological parents. May take the form of informal or formal care; kinship care; foster care; other forms of family-based or family-like care placements; residential care; or supervised independent living arrangements for children (United Nations, Article 29 (b) & (c), Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, 2009).

- **Asylum Seeker:** Can either refer to an individual whose refugee status has not yet been determined but whose claim to international protection entitles them to a certain protective status on the basis that he or she could be a refugee (UNHCR BIP Guidelines 2021).

- **Best Interest Determination (BID):** Describes the formal UNHCR process, which has strict procedural safeguards designed to determine the child's best interests when taking particularly important decisions affecting the child (UNHCR BIP Guidelines 2021)

- **Best Interest Procedure (BIP):** UNHCR case management framework for asylum-seeking and refugee children. It ensures that decisions and actions aimed at addressing protection risks and needs for children are in their best interests. BIP is embedded within, and linked to, refugee protection case management (UNHCR BIP Guidelines 2021).

- **Child:** As defined in Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), means "every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier".

- **Child Protection:** The "prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children" (The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019).

- **Child Protection System:** Formal and informal structures, functions and capacities that have been assembled to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children. It includes: human resources, finance, laws and policies, governance, monitoring and data collection as well as protection and response services and case management (UNICEF et al., 2013).

- **Child Protection System Strengthening:** "Whole system strengthening considers the effective functioning of all components in relevant state and non-state sectors and at all levels of the system in order to prevent and respond to violence against children" [or other protection objectives (WHO 2018).

- **Children on the Move:** Children moving for a variety of reasons, voluntarily or involuntarily, within or between countries, with or without their parents or other primary caregivers, and whose movement, while it may open up opportunities, might also place them at risk (of economic or sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence (Inter-agency Working Group on Children on the Move, cited in IOM, 2011).

- **Community-Based Approach:** A way of working in partnership with persons of concern. It recognizes the resilience, capacities, skills and resources of persons of concern, builds on these to deliver protection and solutions, and supports the community's own goals" (UNHCR 2008).

- **Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms:** A community-level network or group that works in a coordinated way to ensure the protection and wellbeing of children in a village, urban neighborhood or other community (Minimum standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. Global Protection Cluster: Child Protection, Child Protection Working group, 2012).

- **Immigration Detention (asylum seeker):** A form of deprivation of liberty, which (for immigration-related purposes), in the cases of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons should normally be avoided. It should always be a measure of last resort, with liberty being the default position. (UNHCR Emergency Handbook).

- **Internally Displaced Person (IDPs):** Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made

disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (UNHCR Emergency Handbook).

- **Mixed Movement:** Movement within and across national and international borders of different groups of people with different profiles and needs, including asylum-seekers and refugees, as well as migrants (UNHCR BIP Guidelines 2021).

- **Refugee:** Someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion (The 1951 Refugee Convention).

- **Returnees:** Former refugees who have returned to their country of origin spontaneously or in an organized fashion but have not yet been fully (re)integrated. The term also applies to IDPs who return to their previous place of residence (UNHCR BIP Guidelines 2021).

- **Separated Children:** Are those 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 (UNHCR BIP Guidelines 2021).

- **Social Service Workforce:** An inclusive concept referring to a broad range of governmental and nongovernmental professionals and paraprofessionals who work with children, youth, adults, older persons, families and communities to ensure healthy development and well-being. The social service workforce focuses on preventative, responsive and promotive services. (The Global Social Service Workforce).

- **Stateless Person:** A person who is not considered to be a national by any State under the operation of its law. This definition is binding on all States parties to the Convention and applies to other States because the International Law Commission has concluded that it is part of international customary law (UNHCR Emergency Handbook).

- **Supervised Independent Living:** Where an adolescent child or group of adolescent children, live independently. These arrangements must be monitored and the role of the community is crucial in supporting these children (UNHCR Brief Alternative Care).

- **Unaccompanied or Separated Children (UASC):** "Children separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives". Unaccompanied children are defined as "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" (Inter-agency Working Group on UASC, 2004, cited in Williamson et al., 2017). A contextualized definition of "unaccompanied and separated children" should reflect local understandings of customary care and family relationships. All actors should consistently use the same definition and ensure that affected populations understand it in the local language and within cultural norms (The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019).

Annex 2 - International standards

There is long-standing consensus about State obligations to protect the rights of all children, as enshrined under international law in the [Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) (CRC)](). UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 20 November 1989, United Nations.

[The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention) and its 1967 Protocol](), as well as the [1950 Statute for the International Protection of Refugees and Humanitarian Assistance](), are universal instruments mandating UNHCR to protect asylum seekers, refugees, returnees, and stateless persons (UNHCR can also be involved to protect the internally displaces persons - IDPs).

More concretely on refugee children, the [UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion No. 107 – (LVIII) - 2007 on Children at Risk (ExCom107)]() "applies to children, as defined under Article 1 of the CRC, who are asylum-seekers, refugees, are internally displaced or returnees assisted and protected by UNHCR, or are stateless, particularly addressing the situation of those at heightened risk."

The [Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)]() (2018) "represents the political will and ambition of the international community as a whole for strengthened cooperation and solidarity with refugees and affected host countries". The commitments of the GCR are consistent with the [Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)]() principle to 'leave no one behind'. The GCR lead also to the first ever [Global Forum for Refugees (GFR) in December 2019]().

Further, the 2021 [UNHCR Best Interest Procedure Guidelines: Assessing and Determining the Best Interest of the Child (BIP Guidelines 2021)]() support UNHCR and partner staff in improving the protection outcomes for refugee children at heightened risk by: situating the best interest of refugee children within a comprehensive child protection system, and by strengthening child protection case management for all refugee children."

[UNICEF's Child Protection Strategy (2021-2030)]() and accompanying Child Protection Systems Paper Series (including benchmarks) guides UNICEF's approach to systems strengthening.

Annex 3 – List of child protection services

Continuum of prevention and response services to support children – UNHCR's provision of child protection services as detailed in the 2021 UNHCR BIP Guidelines

Alternative Care: Care provided for children by caregivers who are not their biological parents. May take the form of informal or formal care; kinship care; foster care; other forms of family-based or family-like care placements; residential care; or supervised independent living arrangements for children.[46]

Case Management (Child): is an approach to addressing the needs of an individual child and their family in an appropriate, systematic and timely manner, through direct support and/or referrals.[47]

Community based child protection: A community-based child protection mechanism (CBCPM) is a network or group of individuals at community level who work in a coordinated way toward child protection goals. These mechanisms can take the form of a focal point or a group or network of community members with a role in child protection (social workers, teachers, health staff, parents, elders, and other volunteers).[48]

Family Tracing & Reunification: The United Nations Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children state: "As soon as an unaccompanied or separated child is taken into care, all reasonable efforts should be made to trace his/her family and re-establish family ties, when this is in the best interests of the child and would not endanger those involved." In practice, in the case of unaccompanied and separated children: family reunification is normally considered to be in the best interests of the child, and BIP should consistently address the extent to which family reunification is attainable."[49]

Guardianship: "A guardian is an independent person who safeguards a child's best interests and general well-being, and to this effect complements the limited legal capacity of the child. The guardian acts as a statutory representative of the child in all proceedings in the same way that a parent represents his or her child."[50]

MHPSS: "The composite term 'mental health and psychosocial support' (MHPSS) refers to any type of local or outside support that aims to protect or promote psychosocial well-being or prevent or treat mental disorders. Among humanitarian agencies the term is widely used and serves as a unifying concept that can be used by professionals in various sectors. MHPSS interventions can be implemented in programmes for health & nutrition, protection (community-based protection, child protection and SGBV) or education. The term 'MHPSS problems' may cover a wide range of issues including social problems, emotional distress, common mental disorders (such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder), severe mental disorders (such as psychosis), alcohol and substance abuse, and intellectual or developmental disabilities."[51]

SGBV: "Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a particularly disturbing phenomenon which exists in all regions of the world. The term refers to any harmful act that is perpetrated against one person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. SGBV entails widespread human rights violations, and is often linked to unequal gender relations within communities and abuses of power. It can take the form of sexual violence or persecution by the authorities or can be the result of discrimination embedded in legislation or prevailing societal norms and practices. It can be both a cause of forced displacement and an intolerable part of the displacement experience."[52]

Support for children in contact with the law & legal aid: "Children come into contact with the law for various reasons – as defendants or witnesses in criminal proceedings; as parties in family proceedings; as victims of physical or psychological violence, sexual abuse or other crimes or rights violations; and as parties in civil or administrative proceedings on issues including health care, social security, disability, and asylum and refugee claims. The outcomes of these cases can be hugely significant for the children's lives in both the long term and the short term. They can determine whether the children go into detention, whom they will live with, what contact they can have with their parents and siblings, which country they will live in and where they will go to school."[53]

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[46] United Nations, Article 29 (b) & (c), Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, 2009.
[47] 2021 UNHCR Best interest Procedure Guidelines: Assessing and determining the Best Interest of the Child, p.10.
[48] UNHCR, Child Protection Issue Brief: Community-based child protection mechanisms, 2013.
[49] 2021 UNHCR Best Interest Procedure Guidelines: Assessing and determining the Best Interest of the Child, p.135.
[50] UNHCR, Technical Guidance: Child Friendly Procedures, 2021.
[51] UNHCR: 's Emergency Handbook: https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/251117/mental-health-and-psychosocial-support
[52] UNHCR, Action Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: An updated Strategy, 2011.
[53] UNICEF ECARO: Guidelines on Child-Friendly Legal Aid, 2018, p. 8

Annex 4: Sample Elements for a Road Map for Inclusion of Refugee Children[54]

During the consultative workshops in Rwanda and Tanzania, the working groups developed draft road maps for inclusion of refugee children in national legal and policy frameworks as well as services and systems. The below matrix summarizes the proposed actions with a view to serve as an example of actions that could be considered elsewhere. At the time of printing the road maps are still pending further prioritization and final endorsement by respective national authorities – therefore the table does not indicate which actions relate to which country. The matrix is just intended to document types of actions and initiatives that might be considered in similar processes in other countries. It should be noted that while this matrix entails a wide range of activities for two different operations– the length of the road map or action plan is not significant in itself. What is more important is that there is commitment from all stakeholders to support the implementation of specific actions and that the document includes short and longer term actions and activities at the national, district and village/camp/settlement levels. Joint prioritization of actions will also be useful in moving forward with the plan.

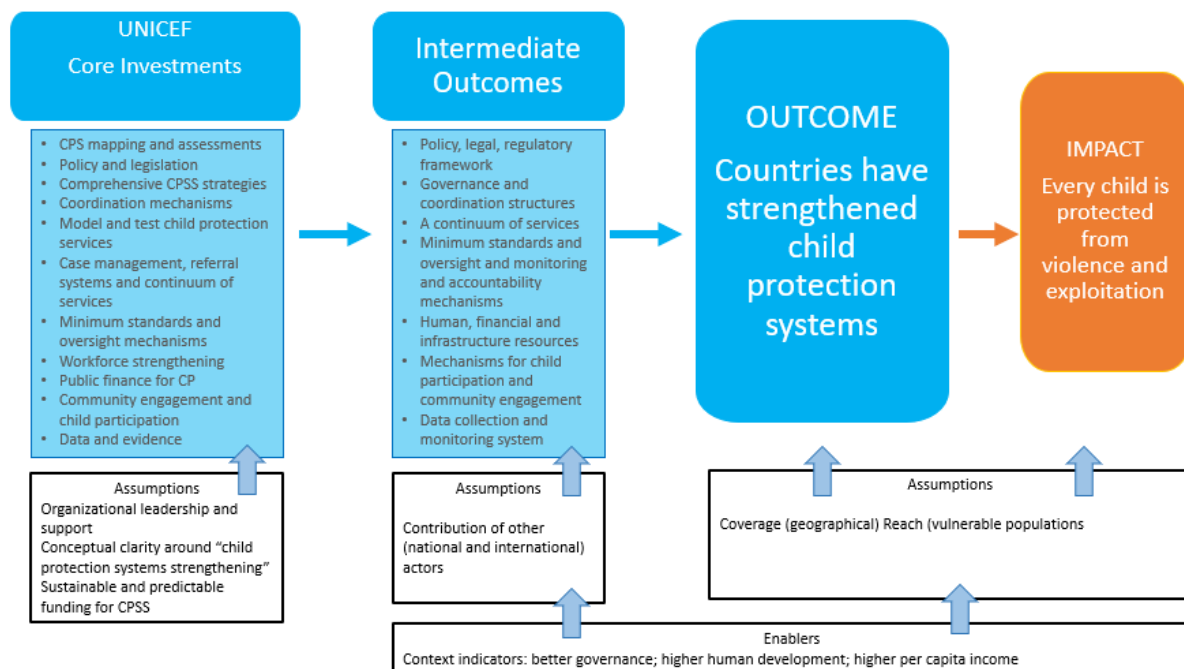| SAMPLE ELEMENTS FOR A ROAD MAP FOR INCLUSION OF REFUGEE CHILDREN (Based on outcomes of consultative workshops in Tanzania and Rwanda)					
Theme	**Action**	Type of activity	Government	Inclusion	Harmonization
Legal and Policy Frameworks, Policies, Standards, National Programs	Upcoming national violence against children (and women) strategic/actions plans present an opportunity for inclusion of refugees: • Refugee children/communities are to be consulted as these plans are developed • Refugee departments to be included in development of these national plans of action and strategies and in coordination groups established to support implementation	Participation, Inter-departmental cooperation	X	X	X
	National Guidelines for establishing Children's Councils to be reviewed to explore how they could inform existing child protection structures at camp level in order to achieve greater harmonization	Expansion of national initiative		X	X
	Facilitate exchange on awareness raising campaigns and prevention – and promote harmonization and greater collaboration regarding e.g. • Campaigns on child labour, • Campaigns on violence prevention • Parenting skills trainings and initiatives • Campaigns on child marriage and teen pregnancy etc. • Child-friendly material • Commemoration days (World Refugee Day, Day of the African Child etc.)	Awareness raising, Prevention			X
	Include a child protection pilot in the CRRF process which can demonstrate the cost-benefit of harmonizing national and refugee specific child protection response.	National plan		X	X
Development Plans	Integrate refugee children in upcoming national plans such as Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Vision-2050 plan, the Child Rights Policy	National plans		X	
	Include refugees in relevant thematic sector plans such as Private Sector development & Youth Employment, Social Protection - sector plan.	Sector plans		X	
	Include refugees in relevant district development plans (both five-year plans and annual plans).	District plans		X	
Child Protection and Social Welfare Services and workforce Birth Registration services	Ministry of Social Welfare/Gender to share the guiding tools and materials used at the national level with UNHCR and partners working in the camps in order to promote harmonization and alignment of practices and procedures (where possible).	Sharing and align tools, material			X

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54 From *Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems: Guidance for Practitioners in East Africa*, UNHCR, 2017

SAMPLE ELEMENTS FOR A ROAD MAP FOR INCLUSION OF REFUGEE CHILDREN
(Based on outcomes of consultative workshops in Tanzania and Rwanda)

Theme	Action	Type of activity	Government	Inclusion	Harmonization
Child Protection and Social Welfare Services and workforce Birth Registration services	Explore ways to increase the involvement of government child protection/social welfare workers with refugee children: • Increase the number of social welfare officers in the refugee hosting areas so they can also cater to case management needs of refugee children • Establishing government social welfare office within the camp. • Explore ways how resources allocated to local government authorities for social welfare can also benefit refugee families and children.	Expand reach of Social Welfare Workforce	X	X	
	Link the work of the National Parenting Task Force to parenting initiatives in refugee camps e.g. exchange on parenting material used in host community and in camps	Expansion of national initiative		X	X
	Build capacity of the social welfare workforce (social workers, para-social workers, and psychologists) on needs of refugee children. • Include refugee response in social work curricula at university and other relevant social work training institutions • Include refugee response in pre-service curriculum training for front-line service providers; • Include a module on refugee children in national CP training material • Using the national CP training material, capacitate camp volunteers with training (national child protection curricula) and coach volunteers during home visits.	Build capacity of social welfare workforce	X	X	
	Foster care: • Explore ways to harmonize procedures for selection and training of foster parents • Facilitate learning and exchange between families fostering national children and those fostering refugees. • Link vulnerable foster families with existing social protection schemes.	Streamlining procedures		X	X
	Case Management: • Map host community and camp referral pathways, reporting mechanisms – to facilitate referral of refugee children to services outside of the camp and viceversa for host community children. • Where possible harmonize referral pathways at various levels (community, district etc.) • Review case management training material used in development and humanitarian settings with a view to standardize and harmonize where possible. • Participation of government social/child protection workers in BID panels.	Streamlining procedures		X	X
	Expand the national Fit Family initiative (emergency foster care/guardianship scheme) to refugee camps and recruit 'Fit Families' among the refugee community	Expansion of existing national initiative		X	X
	Create linkages between parenting initiatives among refugees and host community: • Link the work of National Parenting Task Force to parenting initiatives in refugee camps • Harmonize positive Parenting Initiatives in refugee camps and in host communities (e.g. using same material when appropriate).	Linking with national initiative		X	X

SAMPLE ELEMENTS FOR A ROAD MAP FOR INCLUSION OF REFUGEE CHILDREN (Based on outcomes of consultative workshops in Tanzania and Rwanda)					
Theme	**Action**	Type of activity	Government	Inclusion	Harmonization
Child Protection and Social Welfare Services and workforce Birth Registration services	Continuous capacity building for all actors in contact with refugee children, i.e., training Immigration Officers on Immigration's SOPs for vulnerable groups; law enforcement officers, social welfare officers	Awareness raising, training		X	X
	Facilitate meaningful participation of children (refugee and host community) in existing forums like children's summits, child protection forums, district Children's Committees	Child participation		X	X
	The National Council for Children to endorse the SoPs on alternative care contextualised to humanitarian settings.	Government oversight	X		
	For refugee children in contact with the law consider implementing existing national community rehabilitation initiatives in refugee camps	Linking with national initiative	X	X	X
	Social protection: • Explore possibilities for inclusion of vulnerable refugee families/households in national Social Protection initiatives • Consider aligning criteria and conditions for Cash Based Initiatives with national social protection funds. • Explore inclusion of refugees in the Public Works (employment) scheme in both camps and urban areas	Linking with national initiative		X	X
	Review birth registration procedures with a view to promote full integration in the national civil registration system and procedures rather than pursuing a parallel system	Linking with national system		X	X
	Establish mobile civil registration teams to refugee camps to register births and to issue birth certificates	Facilitate access		X	X
	Awareness-raising: • Joint community sensitization on the importance of birth certificates to host and refugee communities • For local leaders and officials on the status of refugees and their rights to be registered at birth	Raise awareness			X
	Prioritize refugee hosting region for the roll-out of a national simplified birth registration process		X		
	Refugees who turn 16 should obtain IDs at the sector level, like their peers of the same age			X	X
	Promote greater engagement of local authorities in protection and assistance of refugees, including refugee children. As a starting point: • Raise awareness with community members and decision makers (at village and ward level) on refugee children • Build capacity of local council and local leaders on refugee protection and response.	Raise awareness			
	Coordination: • District Council Meetings to cover issues and needs affecting all children (Refugee and host community children) • Greater exchange between child protection coordination groups in camps and groups in host community	Coordination	X		
	Establish community rehabilitation Initiative in refugee camp (for children in contact with Law)	Expand existing national scheme		X	X

Annex 5 - Programme – Impact Pathways for Child Protection Systems Strengthening

UNICEF Core Investments
- CPS mapping and assessments
- Policy and legislation
- Comprehensive CPSS strategies
- Coordination mechanisms
- Model and test child protection services
- Case management, referral systems and continuum of services
- Minimum standards and oversight mechanisms
- Workforce strengthening
- Public finance for CP
- Community engagement and child participation
- Data and evidence

Assumptions
Organizational leadership and support
Conceptual clarity around "child protection systems strengthening"
Sustainable and predictable funding for CPSS

Intermediate Outcomes
- Policy, legal, regulatory framework
- Governance and coordination structures
- A continuum of services
- Minimum standards and oversight and monitoring and accountability mechanisms
- Human, financial and infrastructure resources
- Mechanisms for child participation and community engagement
- Data collection and monitoring system

Assumptions
Contribution of other (national and international) actors

OUTCOME
Countries have strengthened child protection systems

IMPACT
Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

Assumptions
Coverage (geographical) Reach (vulnerable populations

Enablers
Context indicators: better governance; higher human development; higher per capita income

From: UNICEF, 'Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approach; Benchmarks; Interventions'.

Key Resources

For further detailed information see *Section 3: Leveraging National Opportunities to Better Include Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems*, page 11 in Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems: Guidance for Practitioners in East Africa UNHCR UNICEF, 2017.

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