



Child Protection Strategy 2021-2024

Thematic Priorities

Introduction

Every child has a right to a childhood free from violence, to grow up in an environment where they feel safe and protected and which respects and promotes their individuality. And yet for many children around the world this remains an elusive dream. Ending all violence against children is a core part of the sustainable development goals. The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) Child Protection programs aim to make these goals a reality by working directly with the children themselves, their families and communities to support a nurturing environment for children to grow up in.

IRC's Organizational [Strategy](#)

At the IRC, we aim to deliver high-quality, client-centered, cost-effective programs—on our own and with local partners. We will combine the best available research with client-driven insights.

Outcomes

At the IRC, our outcomes define the change we want to see in the lives of our clients. Success is when clients see improvements in their Safety (with a focus on violence prevention and response), Health, Education, Economic Recovery and Development (ERD) and Power. We aim to continue to make progress on these outcomes while tackling gender inequalities in and through all of our work.

Violence Prevention and Response

The Violence Prevention and Response Unit (VPRU) brings together IRC's expertise in Child Protection (CP), Protection & Rule of Law (ProL) and Women's Protection and Empowerment (WPE).

Child Protection at the IRC

Prevention of Violence against Children remains the overall goal of the Child Protection within VPRU at the IRC. Safety outcomes are prioritized in over 90% the countries where IRC is present. Using evidence as a basis to inform our work, we strive to scale up interventions that work and where it lacks, generate [evidence](#) to inform and influence the sector to meaningfully inform Child Protection interventions within the IRC and in the sector. IRC uses the evidence and learning from implementation of **Parenting Interventions** and response to Violence Against Children through **Case Management** as a foundation of our work.

Progress

In 2017 –2021, we prioritized:

1. Strengthening the Capacity of Parents, Caregivers and Service Providers on Parenting Interventions. By the end of the financial year 2021, we had supporting 22,289 parents, 69% were female.
2. Strengthening Prevention of Child Recruitment and Strengthening Reintegration of Children Formerly Associated with Armed Forces/Groups (CAAFAG)
3. Case Management support to 17,425 children, of which 49% were girls.

Ongoing Priority Areas

Parenting Interventions, Case Management and **CAAFAG** remain well established intervention models that continue to be a focus area for further implementation, scale up and further evidence generation in IRC country programs.



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The Child Protection Strategy 2021-2024

This strategy was created through a consultative process that involved surveys, discussion meetings and feedback from country teams. The priorities were defined based on gaps in the sector identified by country teams.

Priority #1: Adolescent Boys and Girls

We will focus on understanding and designing programs with adolescents to support their protection and empowerment with a focus on **Child Labor** and **Children on the Move**.

This will be achieved through:

- Consultations with adolescent boys and girls
- Review of existing evidence and interventions models
- Inclusion and integration with other sectors/units
- Mainstreaming Cash & Digital Literacy

Benchmarks

By 2024, we will have:

- Developed and validated with adolescents' interventions to prevent and respond to Child Labor in Humanitarian Settings, and measure the outcome, through Research
- Developed and validated with adolescents on the move interventions to keep them safe in country of origin/while on the move and measured the associated outcomes as part of our learning agenda
- Integrated and generated learning from MHPSS and Cash interventions for adolescents

Priority #2: Child Focused Partnerships

We will work with local organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and children's organizations to understand, design and implement Child Protection programs that are context appropriate.

This will be achieved through:

- Child Participation
- Focus on feminist Principles
- Integration with other sectors/units

Benchmarks

By 2024 we will have:

- Developed (with local organizations), tested and documented processes/guidance/tools/package on working with local organizations and Governments on systems strengthening for child protection
- Developed intervention models jointly with local organizations or CBOs and contributed to scale for Child Protection outcomes with CBOs and local organizations

Priority #3: Emergencies: Child Protection Emergency Priority

In Emergencies, we will focus on the *how* we respond by ensuring that IRC country teams have the capacity and tools to be able to provide quality response in emergencies in a timely manner.

Benchmarks:

By 2024 we will have:



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- Adapted Child Protection intervention packages in use in emergencies
- Documented learning on what works in Child Protection Emergencies within IRC programs

Joint Priority #1: Child Marriage

Together with the Protection & Rule of Law and Women's Protection & Empowerment Team, we will use existing findings on drivers of child marriage in humanitarian settings to design together with local organizations prevention and response interventions that centre on the protection of children

Benchmarks:

By 2024 we will have:

- Developed guidance on Prevention of early marriage in line with best interests principle and in partnership with a local organization including Child-led organizations.
- Revised the Parenting curriculum for adolescents to strengthen caregiver role in prevention and response to child marriage

Joint Priority # 2: Children's Access to Justice (CA2J)

Together with the Protection & Rule of Law and Women's Protection & Empowerment Team, we will ensure children access child-friendly justice systems in humanitarian settings. This priority will advance in partnership with local organizations with expertise on CA2J.

Benchmarks

By 2024 we will:

- Have conducted a desk review on CA2J in humanitarian contexts with focus on good practice, recommendations, gaps and linkages to existing Protection interventions
- Have developed a training Package for country teams on CA2J programming
- Have developed Program development guidance for CA2J programs

Collaboration

IRC works in close collaboration with other national and international humanitarian agencies and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Child Protection Alliance in Humanitarian Action (CPHA). In the past 5 years, the IRC has contributed to the inter-agency efforts through co-leading the Case management Task Force, the Unaccompanied and Separated Children Task Force, the Family Strengthening Task Force and the Cash Task Force.

In the different countries where IRC is present and working on Prevention and Response to Violence Against Children, our collaboration and contribution varies across the different regions or country specific priorities.

For more information, have a look at the Child Protection website:

<https://childprotectionpractitioners.org/>

Email: Children@Rescue.Org

www.Rescue.Org