



Glossary of Terms, Abbreviations, and Acronyms

AAP – Accountability to Affected Population

Age of Consent – The age at which, under the law, a person is able to give consent to engage in sexual acts. This varies from country to country and even within different jurisdictions within a country.

Breast-Ironing/Flattening – The use of a hot blunt object such as a stone to pound the breasts of a young adolescent girl in order to stop the breasts from developing. The belief is that it will make the girls less sexually active, less likely to become pregnant or be raped. Some mothers do it so that the girls won't be married as young and may pursue education. Common in Cameroon. Also found in Benin, Chad, Ivory Coast, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Kenya, Togo and Zimbabwe. "Breast Sweeping" is a similar practice in South Africa.

Bride Price – Money or gifts given by the groom or the groom's family to the bride's family as negotiated by the two families in order to arrange the marriage.

CDC – Center for Disease Control. The CDC is a U.S. government agency, under the Department of Health and Human Services, that works to protect and promote Americans health and safety both nationally and internationally.

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

Child – Under international law, as it has most recently been amended, a child is any person 18 years or younger. However, state laws and local customs set a different age and this age can differ between boys and girls.

Child Abuse – Also known as child maltreatment, child abuse is the physical, sexual, or emotional/psychological mistreatment or the neglect of a child, which threatens or harms the wellbeing of the child.

Child Bride – A girl under the age of 18, who is taken either formally or informally, as the wife or partner of a man, who is older than 18.

Child-Friendly Spaces – Child-friendly spaces are specifically designated areas that are setup and protected to ensure children an environment to be children, have their rights ensured, and provide a break from the situations and events that have disrupted their lives. Many times these are spaces set up for learning and play that are protected from physical dangers.

<http://www.unicefusa.org/stories/mission/protect/education/child-friendly-schools/child-friendly-spaces-offer-fun-safety-and>

Child Maltreatment – Also known as child abuse, child maltreatment is the physical, sexual, or emotional/psychological mistreatment or the neglect of a child, which threatens or harms the wellbeing of the child.

Child Protection – According to UNICEF, child protection refers to the prevention and response to violence, exploitation, and abuse in children in all contexts.

Child Protection Officer – Also known as child welfare officers, child protection officers (CPO) can be responsible for a number of child protection-related tasks. Normally, at a minimum, they are persons to whom child maltreatment or incidents suspected of involving child abuse or neglect can be reported for investigation. CPOs ensure that children are removed from abusive or potential harmful situations, especially while investigations are occurring.

Cluster Group/System/Approach – Introduced in the Humanitarian Reform of 2005 by the UN General Assembly, this is a system whereby groups of humanitarian organizations, both UN and non-UN, work together on specific areas or sectors of intervention in a crisis. For example, there are clusters for coordinating shelter, health, protection, food security, etc. Each has an appointed head organization that leads the group based on expertise and they help to make sure that the international response covers the needs and minimizes redundancy during a crisis. UN OCHA helps to coordinate between the clusters, and organize field support. <http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/coordination-tools/cluster-coordination>

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/CROC/UNCRC) – The CRC is a international legal document adopted by the UN General Assembly on November 20, 1998, which outlines the rights of children. It went into force on September 2, 1990 after the required number of signatory states had agreed to the convention. To date, 194 countries are subject to the CRC. The USA and Somalia signed but have not ratified it. South Sudan is the last country and it has started the legal process to ratify the treaty. Three additional optional protocols have been added and all are in effect with the necessary number of signatures. <http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child

Criminal Background Check – The general term for the search of a person's history as regards criminal activity, arrests, and convictions. Most are limited in scope by location or types of criminal history, such as State, Local, or Federal histories. This is due there not being a centralized information warehouse for criminal records. This is true in many countries, that databases are limited in ability to search for criminal histories.

DDR – Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration. DDR is a process of moving armed groups from war and violence to peacetime by turning in weapons, resettling into civilian life, and learning to reintegrate into society.

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/ddr.shtml>

DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction. DRR is a preventative method for identifying risks for disaster and then addressing them to mitigate the magnitude of destruction in an emergency situation. <http://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/what-is-drr>

Duty Bearers – In the human rights context, duty bearers are those people and entities responsible for ensuring that a person's rights are upheld. The responsibility of each duty bearer is not necessarily equal though. Some duty bearers for children's rights are the children, parents, and the government.

FGM – Female Genital Mutilation. According to WHO, FGM comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

- FGC – Female Genital Cutting. FGC is the same as Female Genital Mutilation. According to WHO, FGM comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.
- Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) – According to WHO, FGM/C comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/en/>
- GBV – Gender-based Violence. The European Institute for Gender Equality defines GBV as violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender. Frequently it is violence against women and girls. <http://www.irinnews.org/indepthmain.aspx?InDepthId=20&ReportId=62847>
- Geneva Conventions – The International Committee of the Red Cross describes the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols as the core of international humanitarian law. . . .They specifically protect people who are not taking part in the hostilities and those who are no longer participating in hostilities (e.g. POWs, wounded, etc.). The 4 Geneva Conventions were negotiated in 1949 following WWII and three additional protocols were added, two in 1977 and one in 2005. <https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/geneva-conventions>
- Grooming – Grooming is a calculated process used by some sexual predators to create an emotional bond with a child and prepare him/her to accept being sexually abused by lowering inhibitions and creating a situation where the victim is unlikely to report the abuse.
- Honor Killing – An honor killing is the homicide of a person by their family or social group, such as tribe, for bringing a perceived shame on the group. Usually the victims are female.
- Human Trafficking – According to the UN, human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring [sic] or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, . . . for the purpose of exploitation. Trafficking is normally for the purposes of labor or sexual exploitation.
- ILO – International Labor Organization <http://www.ilo.org/>
- IMF - International Monetary Fund <http://www.imf.org/>
- Impact Evaluation – An impact evaluation is a tool used to assess how a particular intervention has intentionally or unintentionally changed its recipients both positively and negatively.
- MDG – Millennium Development Goals. According to the UN, at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 the largest gathering of world leaders in history adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets, with a deadline of 2015 that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals. These targets are divided into 8 goals, on the topics of Hunger, Education, Women, Child Mortality, Maternal Health, Diseases, Environment, and Partnerships. <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/>

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – A memorandum of understanding is a written agreement between parties to codify a working relationship so that parties have specific roles and responsibilities for a partnership on a program, project, or event. It is not as legally binding or formal as a contract but it is more formal and clearer than just a verbal agreement and a handshake.

M&E – Monitoring and Evaluation. M&E is a process of evaluating a program, project, or organization to analyze its outputs, practice, efficiency, and effectiveness in order to improve output and results. According to UN Office of Drugs and Crime, monitoring is a continuing function that uses systematic collection of data on specific indicators to provide the management and the main stakeholders of an ongoing intervention with indications of the extent of achievement of objectives and progress in the use of allocated funds. Whereas, evaluation is the systematic and objective assessment of ongoing and/or completed projects, programmes [sic] or policies, in respect to their: design, implementation, and results. Evaluation emphasizes the assessment of outcomes and impact rather than the delivery of outputs.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Toolkit-files/08-58296_tool_10-1.pdf

Minimum Standards – The most basic criteria that must be met in a program, event, or situation for safety, consistency, and professionalism as determined by a government, industry leaders, or monitoring organization.

MVC – Most Vulnerable Children

OCHA – Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. OCHA is an agency within the United Nations. <http://www.unocha.org/>

Orphan – An orphan is someone who has lost both parents. In many countries, however, an orphan is someone who has been given up by his/her parent(s) due to the loss of one parent and the inability of the remaining parent to be able to provide for the child. Sometimes the parent cannot provide due to cultural norms or definitions, which do not allow full participation within society. In these societies, those children who have lost one parent are known as a single orphan and those that have lost both parents are called double orphans. When a child is a single orphan, the terms paternal orphan or maternal orphan are used to delineate which parent is deceased.

OVCs – Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Paris Principles – According to UNICEF, in 2007, principles and commitments specifically to protecting children associated with armed forces and armed groups were developed at a conference in Paris.

<https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/our-work/paris-principles/>

PSEA – Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Psychosocial – Action for the Rights of Children (ARC) defines psychosocial as the close connection between psychological aspects of human experience and the wider social experience. Psychosocial support or programming attempts to influence both the individual and the social environment in which people live and ranges from care and support offered by caregivers, family members, friends, neighbours [sic], teachers, healthworkers, and community members on a daily basis but also extends to care and support offered by specialized

[sic] psychological and social services. <http://www.arc-online.org/foundation/psychosocialsupport.html>

Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) – Randomized controlled trials are a type of impact evaluation, which uses at least two groups, one which receives the programming, and another group which is statistically similar, chosen randomly, which does not receive the programming or “treatment.”

<http://www.povertyactionlab.org/methodology/what-randomization>

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Resilience/Resiliency – Dr. Ann Masten, a resiliency researcher, defines resiliency as the capacity of a system to adapt successfully to disturbances that threaten its stability, viability, or development. <http://resilienceresearch.org/>

Risk Assessment – The US Department of Homeland Security and FEMA define risk assessment as a process to identify potential hazards and analyze what could happen if a hazard occurs. This can be analyzing risk and preparedness for a natural disaster, political unrest, or even a situation such as children playing in an area filled with trash, with the purpose being to mitigate danger and dangerous situations through planning and preparation.

<http://www.ready.gov/risk-assessment>

Safeguarding Policy – A child safeguarding policy, sometimes also known as a child protection policy, is a organization’s document clarifies the priorities as regards to protecting children, mandates reporting, establishes operational safety measures and rules, creates procedures for child maltreatment reports, and proposes a philosophy for developing further programming. Sometimes safeguarding is used as a broader term than child protection. The UK Government defines safeguarding children as the process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/getting_started/Pages/Why_does_safeguarding_matter.aspx

SEA – Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Sexual Abuse – According to the UN Secretary-General’s Bulletin of 2003, “the term ‘sexual abuse’ means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.” Ex – rape, unwanted groping, showing illicit material to minors, forcing individuals to perform sex acts, etc.

Sexual Exploitation – According to the UN Secretary-General’s Bulletin of 2003, “the term ‘sexual exploitation’ means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual

exploitation of another.” Ex – pimping, selling sex slaves, creating pornography for profit, marrying off children for social gain, etc.

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals. The plan that succeeds the Millennium Development Goals, which were targets set in 2000 to address poverty by 2015. SDG resulted from the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012. This new plan is meant to continue to work to eradicate global poverty and promote human development. <http://unsdsn.org/>

SGBV – Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Sexual and Gender-based Violence is specifically violence directed against a person on the basis of his/her gender and is sexual in nature (e.g. rape, FGM, etc.)
<http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/en/areas-of-responsibility/gender-based-violence.html>

Sphere Standards – The Sphere Project is initiative by humanitarian organizations to improve the quality of aid and accountability through the creation of industry principles and minimum standards known as the Sphere Standards, which are found in the Sphere Handbook. <http://www.spherehandbook.org/>

Threat Assessment – Threat assessments are often part of a greater a risk assessment process, whereby an individual, group is evaluated to determine the level of risk that s/he or they pose to another individual, group, organization, or state, usually in terms of a violent situation and a specific threat.

TOR – Terms of Reference. Terms of reference are used to explain and clarify the scope and limitations of a study, report, or evaluation.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) – According to Action for the Rights of Children, UDHR was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948. It is the primary UN document establishing human rights standards and normalities. All member States have agreed to uphold the UDHR. Although the declaration was intended to be non-binding, through time its various provisions have been upheld by States in a consistent manner and largely codified in binding human rights treaties, thus giving it the status of customary international law, meaning that its provisions are binding upon all States irrespective of signature to other human rights treaties.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme <http://www.undp.org/>

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees <http://www.unhcr.org/>

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
<http://en.unesco.org/>

UNICEF – United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
<http://www.unicef.org/>

Vulnerable Children – Vulnerable children are ones that live in situations which place them at high risk of mistreatment, abuse, neglect, dangerous and risky behaviors, damaged health, physical harm, or death and at risk of losing or not recognizing their rights to be able to grow and develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and sexually into adulthood.

WASH – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene <http://www.washinstitute.org/>

Warner Interview – The Warner interview is used to describe a type of interviewing technique frequently used in social work settings for working with children. It was developed from the Warner Report, a British report submitted in 1992 to Parliament after an extensive investigation into a sex offender who worked with children for decades in the child protective system before being discovered. http://wirrallscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/warner_intv.pdf
WHO – World Health Organization <http://www.who.int/en/>