



BASELINE SURVEY FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY
PROTECTION AND EDUCATION SERVICES FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN
IN DOLLO ADO CAMPS REFUGEE CAMPS ETHIOPIA

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### **Acronyms**

SCI: Save the Children International

BPRM: Bureau of Population, Refugees & Migration CFS: Child friendly space

**IP:** Implementing partner

**NFI:** Nonfood item

**UNHCR**: United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees

ARRA: Administration for Refugees & Returnees Affairs

FTR: Family tracing and reunification

**OP:** Operational partner

**CPC**: Child Protection Committee

FGD: Focus Group Discussion

KII: Key informant interview

**UASC:** Unaccompanied and separated children

**PFA:** Psychological first aid

**CPIMS**: Child protection information management system

### Acknowledgment

Many individuals, institutions, and groups have assisted and provided input in carrying out this baseline study and without their support the study would not have been possible. Thank you to all individuals and organizations who agreed to be consulted for the study, for their time and openness. Special thanks are extended to the hundreds of children and adults who made the time to talk to the survey team and shared their beliefs and experiences on the care and protection of children.

The study team also acknowledges, ARRA and UNHCR also for their continued support to Save the Children's programs in Dollo Ado camps. Above all, Save the Children is indebted to BPRM for the steady financial support to its programs.

#### I. Executive summary

Aiming to establish baseline data for its child protection program and also to understand the knowledge, attitude and practice of the refugee community, the functionality of the child protection system and the capacity at local level to prevent and respond to child protection concerns SC has conducted an assessment in three camps under Dollo Ado operation namely Bokolmayo, Helwoyen and Buramino. The assessment was conducted between the fifth and the tenth of June 2016. The assessment employed various methodologies to collect and analyze the data and information collected. Secondary data was collected from the field office in Dollo Ado and primary data was collected from children through a structured survey using Kobo Tool. The quantitative data was collected using Kobo Tool and analyzed by SPSS 20. In addition, qualitative data was collected through focus discussion discussions with children and adults and key informant interviews with local government and UN officials in the sample camps of Bokolmayo, Helwoyen and d Buramino.

The assessment has produced baseline data (attached as an annex) and also helped to get good understanding of the knowledge level of the community and the overall child protection system including the capacity that exists at local level to prevent and respond to child protection concerns.

According to the assessment, children in the camps are at high risk violence, separation from primary caregivers, abandonment and neglect, physical abuse, psychological distress, child labor, gender based violence (GBV), including child marriage and female genital mutilation and rape. Moreover, most of them are in distress due to the loss of close families and friends, family breakdown and the conflict situation back in their home country.

The following are some of the findings that this assessment revealed:

### I. Knowledge, attitude and practice of the target population towards child protection:

The fact that SC has been operational in the camps since 2009, the refugee community has reasonably good level of knowledge about child protection. A manifestation of this is that community representatives explained that children have rights to protection and they also explained the consequence that failing to protection children have. Further, they said that if they witness protection concern they would report to concerned bodies so that action is taken to protection children.

#### 2. Type and prevalence of child protection concerns:

Despite the efforts made over the years to reduce the prevalence of child protection concerns, the assessment revealed that there is a still a high prevalence of child protection concerns in the camps. Physical and humiliating punishment of children, child labor, abandonment, denial of basic needs, sexual and gender based violence such as rape, female genital mutilation/cutting child marriage were pointed out as the most prevalent child protection concerns.

## 3. <u>Child protection mechanisms/structures in the sample intervention camps:</u>

The research also identified the child protection mechanisms and structures that existing in the camps. Among them are child led groups (CLGs), protection committees (CPCs), protection volunteers, refugee central committee, youth and women associations. Furthermore, its indicated that these communities based structures are playing active role in awareness raising about child protection, identification of at risk and affected children, mediation between parents and children & referring cases of abuse to SC child protection program and other agencies providing protection services for children. There are also child protection coordination and case management meetings that are taking place among agencies providing services to children which enables children to get access to available services. The SOP developed and being

used by signatory agencies gives framework on what has to be done and how should it be done in the child protection sector.

### 4. Existing capacity to prevent and respond to child protection concerns:

The assessment also tried to look into the existing local capacity to prevent and respond to child protection concerns and the result shows that there is a generally good capacity at local level. Families are becoming aware about the bad consequences of abuse, neglect and exploitation and starting to take good care of their children despite the economic hardship they are facing at the household. Although, the deeply embedded cultural attitudes which are mixed with religious values are posing a protection threat towards girls, through trainings and continued awareness raising efforts, traditional leaders are demonstrating changed attitude.

In addition to exploring the knowledge and practice towards child protection, type and prevalence of child protection concern, the existing child protection system and structure and the capacity that exists at local level, the assessment also proposed some workable recommendation that needs the attention of the child protection team on the ground.

While there is a good level of knowledge about child protection, there a need to work hard focusing on behavior and practice change; that's where need to focus to bring about a lasting change in the protection of children.

Although there is an increase in knowledge level about child protection concerns and their

consequences, there is still a high prevalence various child protection concerns. More specifically, physical and humiliating punishment, engaging children in labor, emotional abuse and abandonment are quite common forms of child abuse. Though under reported for various reason, respondents of this assessment perceived that there is a high prevalence of gender based violence including rape, FGM and early/forced marriage of girls. Hence, Save the Children needs to further intensify its awareness raising effort, better mobilize the community to be able to identify children who are at risk and affected by protection concerns so that they are provided with appropriate prevention and remedial services.

There are quite a number of child protection and other community structures who are working on child protection. Thus, it's vital to continue with the capacity building work so that there exists a better capacity at local level sometime in the future. As there is a turnover of committees and associations members there is need to continually provide capacity building training. Besides, there is need for ongoing technical and materials support for community structures to ensure sustainability in the long run.

In a nut shell, the baseline assessment has helped to establish baseline results that can be used to measure achievements brought as a result of SC interventions and gives a fair view of the level of knowledge in awareness and what the existing child protection system and the capacity that exists at community level.

#### 2. Background

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organization for children. Our vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. With a mission of inspiring breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives Save the Children works both in the development and humanitarian contexts. In Ethiopia, under the child protection program, Save the Children is responding to ensure the wellbeing of children by prioritizing four areas of intervention: Children without appropriate care, children and harmful work, physical and humiliating punishment and Child Protection in Emergencies.

As an organization with dual mandate to work in both development and humanitarian settings, SC has been providing protection services benefiting refugee children in Dollo Ado camps. Nutrition, vocational skills training (VST), education and child protection are the sectors that SC has been working on. Since March 2009, SC has been responding to the protection needs of refugee children with particular focus on the most vulnerable children.

As part of its continued programing, Save the Children has received grant from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) for the project entitled unleashing the potential of refugee community for the protection and development of children in Dollo Ado, Ethiopia. The project will be implemented in all the five camps under the Dollo Ado operation namely Bokolmayo, Mekadida, Kobe, Helwoyen and Buramino and will have a one-year period.

The project aims at protecting at risk and affected refugee children through appropriate preventive and response interventions. Key intervention in the project includes, strengthening the case management system including identification of children with protection concerns, conducting BIA/BID, carry out IDTVR, arranging alternative care for UASC, referral and other response services. Prevention of child protection concerns is also an integral part of this project. To this end, the project emphasized in creating awareness, enhancing coordination among child protection stakeholders and strengthening the community based child protection mechanism. The project is designed to specifically address the protection needs of the most vulnerable children such as UASC, child-headed households, child mother, children with disabilities, children living with chronically ill parents etc. The project intends to protect 15497 children (boys and girls). The project has also targeted to indirectly reach I 1800 adults through the various awareness raising events such as tea talk session, campaigns a community messaging events. The project will be implemented in close collaboration with UNHCR an ARRA.

It is with this backdrop that SC has conducted a baseline assessment in sample camps under Dollo Ado operation. Save the Children is implementing child protection program in all the five camps under Dollo Ado operations since 2009. The program mainly focused at raising the level of community awareness towards child protection, managing cases of at risk and vulnerable children, provision of psychosocial support, building the capacity of staff and humanitarian agencies, child protection coordination and strengthening the community based child protection system.

Over the years, SC has registered immense results in its child protection program. Most notably, despite the prevalence of deep rooted traditional attitudes about children, SC as managed to mobilize the community and raised level of awareness. Most at risk and vulnerable children were provided with case management support and received psychosocial support through the seventeen CFS constructed across all the five camps. SC has also rallied around the camps to lobby UNHCR, ARRA and another IPs to initiate the child protection

coordination mechanism an also established a community based child protection mechanism. SC has also labored hard to build the capacity of its staff and staff of other humanitarian agencies.

The BPRM funding has enabled SC to continue to build upon the results achieved so far. As part of its current project funded by BPRM, SC has decided to conduct as assessment and establish baseline data which will help to measure progress made towards meeting minimum standards and the end ensure quality program delivery. At the end of BPRM project, findings from the baseline study will be compared with end-of-project data to assess the impacts achieved as a result of the project.

#### Study objective

The overall objective of the baseline study is to generate and establish baseline values for each outcome and outputs indicators in line with the log frame of the grant agreement and to provide the basis for subsequent assessment of how effectively and efficiently the program is being implemented and to be able to measure progress made over time as a result of the project for the project monitoring and evaluation and provide an understanding of the present baseline indicators data that deal on child protection related with in targeted areas in the Dollo Ado refugee camps (Buramino, Hilaweyn, Kobe, Melkadida and Bokolmanyo refugee camps).

#### **Specific Objectives**

- To assess the child protection mechanisms/structures in the intervention camps (schools, youth centers, CFSs and other communities' areas to be visited)
- To assess and know the knowledge, attitude and practice of the target population towards child protection concerns that affect the wellbeing of children.
- To assess the prevalence and types of child protection concerns in the intervention areas
- To know the capacity of families, community members and governmental and non-governmental bodies
  to wards prevent and respond the protection concerns of children by giving due emphasis for their best
  interest.

### 3. Methodology and procedure

#### 3.1. Research Design

The study followed a multi-method design and included qualitative and quantitative components, namely:

- A questionnaire-based survey which is produced the template on the Kobotool box for children aged 11-17 years in the selected refugee camps.
- 2. A focus group component for children (male and female), aged 11-17 years and community members.
- Key informant interview (KIIs) with selected stakeholder from government agencies civil society organizations working with children, cultural and religious institutions.
- 4. A desk study, involving document review and analysis.

#### 3.2. Study Sites and population

The study was conducted in Dollo Ado three refugee camps, namely Bokolmayo, Helwoyen and Buramino. In each of the selected Camps, the study targeted in and out of school children (aged 11-17), community members, and representatives of government agencies/departments and civil society organizations working with children, and community leaders, including cultural and religious leaders.

#### 3.3. Sample size and sample selection

The target population for the quantitative survey was selected purposively from five refugee camp selected only three this is due to high number of children in the five camps but the selection producer from the three camps between the ages of 11 to 17 years' children 480 children were selected by random sampling method. The caregivers were defined as any person who provides direct care for children, regardless of the type of

relationship. For children, it was decided to target children between the ages of 11 and 17 years. This specific age range was considered appropriate the complexity and delicacy of the issues explored by the survey; younger children would have not had sufficient maturity and judgment to fully understand the nature of the questions.

#### 3.4. Data Collection

A mixed methods approach was used throughout the study, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative research methods of collecting and analyzing: the mixed methods approach allowed us to better investigate the complex nature of phenomena from the participants' point of view, and to analyze the relationships between measurable variables; thus drawing on the strengths and minimizing the weaknesses of each type of research.

#### 4.1. Questionnaire-Based Survey

The quantitative research implied the collection of data through a questionnaire administered to a sample of the entire population. A survey was conducted among in and out of school children, aged II-I7 years (male and female), in the selected We used a Kobo tool box to collect districts. information on the socio-demographic characteristics of children, their perceptions, knowledge and attitudes on child abuse, previous experience of violence and reporting, and access to services (psychosocial, recovery, re-integration etc.). With respect to previous experience of violence, data was collected on forms abuse experienced, frequency of abuse, and the identity of the perpetrator. The question was developed with kobo toolbox and collected by tablets. **Quantitative** questionnaires were distributed to total of 480

children. Questionnaires were administered face-toface in by kobo toolbox data collection tool by 10 enumerators with the MEAL and thematic staffs support.

#### 3.4.2. Focus groups

An in-depth understanding of foster parents, children's, Key informant groups, and stakeholders' context and perspectives required the use of qualitative approaches, thus their opinions were gathered through KIIs and FGDs. The qualitative data together with the review of the secondary data available provided the context, in which children live in the three refugee camps, and complemented the quantitative information in the interpretation of the findings.

A total 6 FGDs was conducted three FGDs were conducted with in and out of school's children (aged, II-I7 years) in the selected refugee camps a total of 55 (28 males and female) were participated. In addition, a total of 6 FGDs were held with foster parents and adult community representatives in three refugee camps a total of 61(30 males and 31 female) were participated. The themes explored during FGD with children and community members, mainly included:

Local views of childhood, child protection risks and responses. Structural, social-cultural, socioeconomic drivers of child abuse. Communication practices between parents/carers and children. Community-based child protection practices and systems; functionality, support needed.

Traditional practices of child rearing and child protection. Harmful Traditional practices that threaten the safety of children (e.g. forced early marriage) and how they can be addressed Existence and functionality of community structures and measures for child protection. Strengths and gaps in existing child protection systems at community level

Adequacy of services proposed and made available to children who have suffered violence

The FGDs, which lasted between one and a half hours and two hours, were conducted in participants' language of preference. An average of 8 and 12 respondents participated in the children and community members FGDs, respectively. The sessions were moderated by a facilitator and a note taker who had been trained to conduct FGDs and to document the verbal responses and nonverbal cues during the discussions. Children who participated in the FGD were excluded from participating in the survey due to their prior exposure to information being sought.

#### 3.5. Quality control issues

Development and pre-testing of study instruments four separate data collection tools and their corresponding Informed Consent (IC) and Assent (IA) Forms were developed for data collection. These include the survey questionnaire, FGD guides for community members and children, and an indepth interview guide for informants. All study tools were pre-tested separately as part of fine tuning and implementation validity, and modified accordingly. The questionnaire was pilot tested.

#### Training of field teams

Data collection was carried by one field teams, comprising of two supervisors and 10 interviewers. Field teams were trained about the protocol and study procedures and how to use tablets for kobo tool box data collection. This included focusing on the study objectives and practicing with the data collection tools. Training of data collectors also covered a range of ethical issues.

#### Supervision

On-site supervision of data collection was done by a team of experienced MEAL and thematic teams. The supervisors were responsible for: coordinating and

overseeing the data collection process, including making contacts with leaders in communities where data would be collected, and keeping a log of activities; direct-onsite supervision of data collection exercise; ensuring that ethical and quality standards were maintained; reviewing completed questionnaires on a daily basis ensure completeness and accuracy; and ensuring safe and confidential data storage in the field and during transfer. And migrating the collected data to the server.

#### 3.6. Data Management and Analysis

Quantitative data: Quantitative data was captured using Kobotool box tools. Frequency tables, descriptive statistics, graphs and charts are used in the presentation of the findings. Chi-square tests were used to assess significance of observed variations across key variables.

Qualitative data: All FGD were recorded, transcribed, translated and entered into Ms. Word. Transcription of FGD was aided by notes taken during discussions. Transcripts were checked for accuracy. Data was analyzed following the principles of thematic analysis, according to the precepts of grounded theory (Bernard, 2006).

#### 3.7. Ethical Considerations

Informed consent was obtained from all individuals participating in the interviews and focus groups using their preferred local language. Before enrolment into the study, the respondents were informed about the aims of the study, their discretion to participate or withdraw at any time and were assured that all information obtained from them would be kept confidential. The anticipated benefits or risks of the study to the participants or the community were clearly explained and all the participants were given an opportunity to express whether they had understood the objectives of the study and what was expected of them as respondents.

#### 3.8 Limitations of the Study

This was a cross sectional study. The survey method depended on self-reported data, which can potentially be limited by inaccurate reporting due to poor memory or misunderstanding of questions. Moreover, given the sensitive nature of the survey, social desirability bias can potentially occur. Also, there is the possibility of recall bias since respondents were expected to provide information on previous experiences. Nonetheless, the validity of our findings is enhanced by methodological triangulation.

### 4. Findings of Survey Results

#### 4.1 Demographic characteristics

In the three refugee camps there were a total of 480 children's i.e. less than 18 years old were who participated on individual survey response. In the participated children 34%, 38% and 28 are from Buramino, Bokolomayo and Helewen refugee camps respectively. And also 12, 24 and 19 children are participated on the focus group discussion in Bokolomayo, Helewen & Buramino refugee camps respectively. In addition to with children FGD is conducted with 12, 24 and 25 adult communities, foster care parents; community leaders in Bokolomayo, Helewen & Buramino refugee camps respectively to understand the level of knowledge on child protection and to know their involvement in the community child protection issues to safeguard the children's in the refugee community.

Table 1: Children are who are participated on individual and FGD survey interview with respective camps

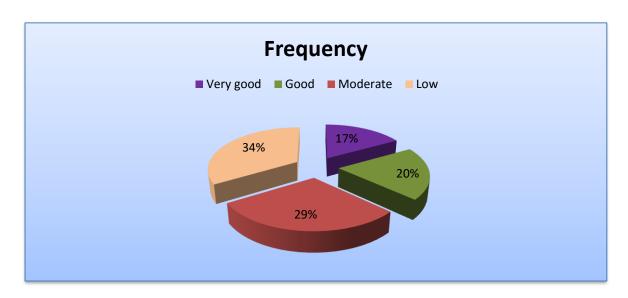
Refugee Camps	Children who are participated whose age 11 to 17 years old				UASC alternative care other refugee children and child led groups			
Camps	В	G	Т	%	М	F	Т	%
Buramino	90	73	163	34	6	6	12	22
Bokulom	84	100	184	38	12	12	24	44
Helewen	73	60	133	28	10	9	19	35
Total	247	233	480	100	28	27	55	100

Table 2: Adults who are participated on FGD male and female Adult participant

Camps	М	F	Total	Remark
Bokolmay	6	6	12	Adults who participated on FGD from community
Helwoyen	12	12	24	representative , foster parents and community representatives and Key informant groups
Buramino	12	13	25	
Total	30	31	61	

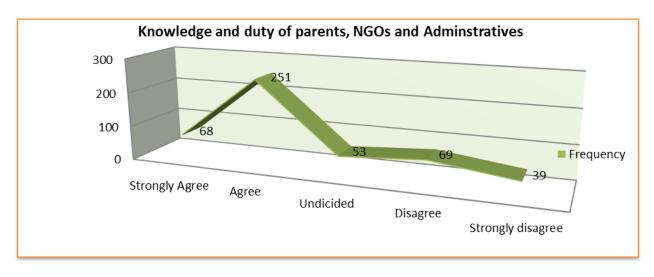
As per the

below graph desplays the majority of the children reported that they had been feel low self confidence play fulness and sense of security 34 % of the children also reported children who feel low. The remaining 29%, 20% and 17% of the children responded that children that they had been feel modrately, good and very good self confidence play fulness and sense of security respectively.



Graph 1: Children who feel increased self-confidence, playfulness and sense of security

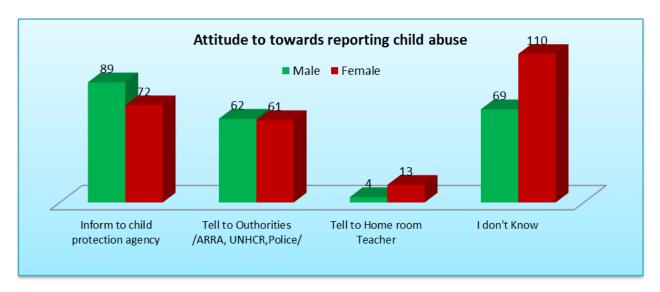
In view of measuring the knowledge level, sample children were asked to express their level of agreement about the duty of parents/caregivers, NGOs and administrative authorities in taking the views of children while asking decision that affect them. The results shows that a considerable number of children (i.e. 33.55) still doesn't know that parents/caregivers, NGOs and administrative authorities have a mandatory responsibility to take the views of children while making decision. This perhaps could be as a result of the low level of knowledge that children have about their right to participate and have their say on matters that affect them. This again justifies the need to enhance the level of knowledge of children about their rights to participation and also the other rights they have that are guaranteed by the UN.



Graph 2: Knowledge about the duty of caregivers, NGOs and administrative authorities in taking the views of children on matters that affect them

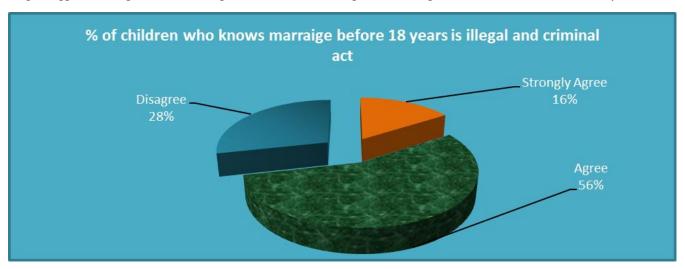
As seen on the table below, 62.7% of respondent children explained that they will report cases of child abuse to child protection agencies, local authorities and home room teachers. This shows that there is a good attitude towards reporting of cases of child abuse among children. However, a sizable number of children (37.3%), reported that they don't know what to do if they themselves or their peers are to abuse, neglect and exploitation. Reporting of cases of child abuse, neglect and exploitation are a means of getting information to prevent children before their fall victim

of abuse and also to provide them with remedial services to heal from the bad effects of abuse and resume normal life afterwards. To this end, the presence of a significant number of children in the camps who doesn't know what to do if they or their peers are abuse is an indicator that tells Save the Children to continue it work in creating awareness about the importance of reporting both for children and adults. Reporting of cases of abuse also helps to generate data and form a solid evidence base for advocacy with agencies such as ARRA and UNHCR and also to guide and frame discussions with the community and the various trainings and awareness raising efforts.



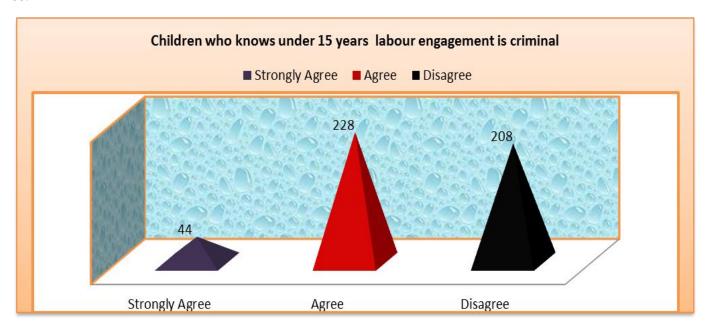
Graph 3: Attitude and practice towards reporting of cases of child abuse

Children were asked to express their level of agreement towards the illegality of marrying off children before the age of 18. Accordingly, as its shown in the chart above, 72% of the respondents agreed that marrying off children before 18 years is illegal while 28% are still seems unconvinced about the illegality of marrying off children before 18. While its encouraging knowing that majority of children knows that marrying off children before 18 is illegal, the presence of children as high as 28% is really concerning. If the result is due to the lack of knowledge about what the law says that's somehow acceptable however if the result is as a result of the attitude/position children takes that would be very serious. In any case, knowing the presence of children who still believe that marrying off girls before 18 is not Illegal suggests a targeted and strong work which can bring about change in behaviour and off course practice.



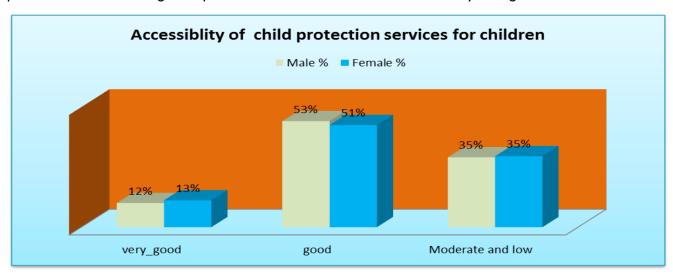
Graph 4: Knowledge about early marriage of children (marriage before 18 years)

As indicated in the table below an astounding 43.3% of children surveyed said that engaging children below 15 years in paid work is not illegal. This would mean that if subjected to child labor before they reach 15 years these children might accept and move on with their situation as they don't know that it's against the law and the rights of children to engage them in labor. This also could potentially reinforce the situation whereby children are subjected to child labor and they remain silent and also employers feel that its okay to employee minors while it's against the law to do so.



Graph 5: Knowledge about the illegality of engaging children below 15 in paid labor (e.g. agriculture, housemaid)

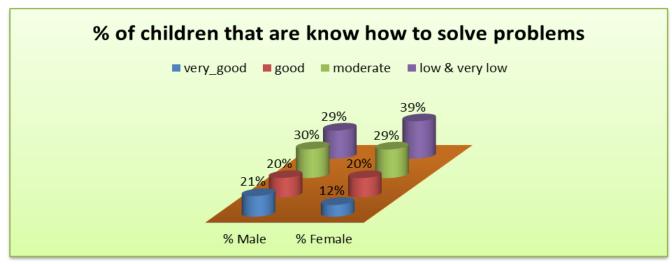
As shown in the graph, its encouraging to see the assessment result that indicates the accessibility of child protections services with a high number of participants i.e. about 65%; responded by saying child protection services are accessible. However, it's still important to realize that a non-negligible amount (35%) said child protection services are either not accessible or they don't know if they exist at all. From the figure, one can easy infer the need to give particular focus on making child, protection services accessible to all child; boys and girls alike.



Graph 6: Accessibility of child protection services

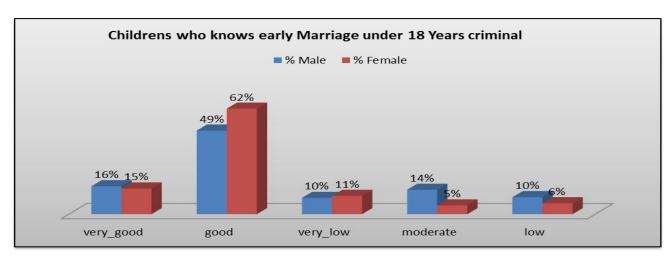
Looking at the problem solving skills which is a key skill in protecting oneself from protection risks, one can understand from the table above that a large percentage (71% of boys and 61%) of children both boys and girls have

said that they feel that they are able to solve problems by themselves if case something bad happens to them. Nevertheless, there is still a significant number of children (boys and girls) who are not sure of their personal skills to deal with and address issue that might arise in in their lives. Increasing key life skills such as communication, leadership, decision making, interpersonal relationship, self-awareness and self-esteem and assertiveness could be prioritized to better equip children and adolescents will the skills needed to better protect themselves and off course their peers.



Graph 7: Problem solving skills while issues arise

The table above shows that the level of understanding of children towards child marriage looks good; with a summary result of 79% of boys and 83% of girls knows that marriage of children below 18 years is an illegal act. While its heartening to see such good understanding about the issue of child marriage its also important to further reinforce the child protection programing focusing on raising awareness on legal matter as well.



Graph 8: Knowledge of legal matters pertaining child marriage

### 5. Discussion of findings

#### **5.1 Child protection mechanisms/structures**

According to FY'15 report 35 (32M, 3F) number of humanitarian actors received training on the Minimum standard for CP in Humanitarian Action, whereas FY'14 report indicate that 5 number of camps that have comprehensive and strong case management and coordination system in place; 20 number of community based structures that develop and implement an action plan based on recommendations from capacity assessment; 158(104M, 54F) CBCPC members that received training on case management and coordination of CP identification, response and referral and on reunification process. In addition to these 179(96M, 83F) representatives of community based structures trained on child safe guarding, in order to improve the child protection system 20 community based structure networks established.

## **5.2** Knowledge, attitude and practice of the target population towards child protection

In order to improve the child well-being issue there is limited effort or number children, families and communities are empowered to prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation against children. As the secondary data indicates that there is no of children who complete seven session life skills course, participate in CP peer to peer education sessions 44.2 % of girls and 50.6% boys that are more empowered and enabled to protect themselves from violence, of families'/care providers and community members that start to take action against child abuse, violence and exploitation

Totally, girls and boys are not demonstrate better awareness on child protection issues and are better able to protect themselves from violence, demonstrate positive coping behavior and resilience capacity, of families and other community members who are enabled to protect children from violence, of community volunteers who have received train of trainer on positive parenting skill, of parents who participate in positive

parents skills sessions/discussions, % of parents/care providers who demonstrated positive parenting practices, of discussions held with community leaders on CP prevention, referral and response and of influential community leaders that started to respond to issues of GBV particularly on issues of early marriage and FGM.

As the secondary reports indicate that there are numbers of child led club members trained in CP issues, including identification and referral of CP concerns amongst their peers 648 (395M, 253F) number of members of child led clubs were trained on CP issues including identification and referral of child protection concerns among their peers in addition to this 25 child led groups were supported to identify and organized educational and entertainment programmes on basic child protection issues such as FGM early marriage, and child labor.

#### **5.3** Type and prevalence child protection concerns

Prevalence and types of child protection concerns were also a focus of this assessment. Thus, participants of the assessment adults, children and ARRA and UNHCR people were asked to mention the types and most prevalent child protection concerns that exist in their camps. Accordingly, rape, physical abuse, FGM, child marriage, neglect and denial of the basic needs of children, family separation were pointed out as the most prevalent child protection concerns

# 5.4 Local capacity to prevent and respond to child protection concerns

Assessing the local capacity that exists in the community is one of the objectives of this assessment. To this end, key informants were asked about the existing local capacity and in their view there is a generally good capacity at local level. Families are becoming aware about the bad consequences of abuse, neglect and exploitation and starting to take good care of children despite the challenge in the household economy. Although, the deeply embedded cultural attitudes which

are mixed with religious values are posing a protection threat towards girls, through trainings and continued awareness raising efforts, traditional leaders are showing sign of changed attitude. Despite the ever, decreasing funding situation UNHCR is allocating funds for protection actors including SC.

A part from these, there is no notable capacity at local a level. Hence, there is a need for continued capacity building to be able to protect children at larger scale. Key informant suggested for a continuous capacity building of community leaders, volunteers and staff of humanitarian agencies to have a better capacity to prevent and responds to child protection concerns. Ongoing technical and materials support for community structures are also needed to ensure sustainability

#### Objective 1:

By the end of the project, 8,000 boys and girls at risk and affected by abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation have access to quality psychosocial services

As per save the children international FY'14 report revealed that there is no Quality improvement plan developed and implemented in each camp, based on recommendations from quality service assessment and no of staff and volunteers trained on psychosocial support, as per Inter Agency Standing Committee for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support guidelines. Whereas the data collected from secondary source shows that 5133 (3237 boys, 1896 Girls) at risk of and affected by abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation who benefited from quality psychosocial services in addition to this 1077 (627 Male & 450 Female) of children at risk of and affected by violence benefitted from NFI support, on the other hand the primary data or survey result revealed that out of 480 children only 212 children have benefited from NFI support which means 44.16%.

266 (106M, 160F) of staff and volunteers were trained on Family tracing and re-unification (FTR) as per Interagency alternative care for UASC and Alternative Care in Emergency guidelines as a result of this 581(317M, 264F) of unaccompanied and separated children who benefited from appropriate and protective care

arrangement services, as part of the ongoing support for UASC save the children has through its social workers has conducted monthly home visit for all UASC staying or living in the camps in other words 100% of UASC and other children at risk that received monthly visits to monitor the care arrangements and 448 (144Male, 304Female) trained

foster parents who demonstrate positive parenting practices (FY'14 Save the children Report).

In all save the children intervention areas or in all refugees' camps there are 17 child friendly spaces 100% of them are physical strengthened to accommodate the needs of children including adolescent and youth in addition to this there were 5133 (3237M, 1896F) of children, adolescents and youth have accessed age, gender and culturally appropriate services within the CFS but staff/facilitators are not trained on CFS operations and management, including facilitation and activity planning skills, based on the CFS training manual, there is no number of children, adolescents and youth who have actively participated in regular age and culturally appropriate sport and recreational sessions, in addition there is no of child protection staff and volunteers trained on child resilience building skills (refresher), there is no number of child protection staff and volunteers trained on Psychological First Aid, no number of children in distress and children at risk of and affected by abuse violence and exploitation who benefited from psychological first aid support of and there is no number of youth/adolescents that complete seven session life skills course and resilience building sessions

#### Objective 2:

By the end of the project, 11,480 of children, families and communities are empowered to prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation against children

In order to improve the child well-being issue there is limited effort or number children, families and communities are empowered to prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation against children. As the secondary data indicates that there is no of children who complete seven session life skills course, participate in

CP peer to peer education sessions 44.2 % of girls and 50.6% boys that are more empowered and enabled to protect themselves from violence, of families/care providers and community members that start to take action against child abuse, violence and exploitation

Totally, girls and boys are not demonstrate better awareness on child protection issues and are better able to protect themselves from violence, demonstrate positive coping behavior and resilience capacity, of families and other community members who are enabled to protect children from violence, of community volunteers who have received train of trainer on positive parenting skill, of parents who participate in positive parents skills sessions/discussions, % of parents/care providers who demonstrated positive parenting practices, of discussions held with community leaders on CP prevention, referral and response and of influential community leaders that started to respond to issues of GBV particularly on issues of early marriage and FGM.

As the secondary reports indicate that there are numbers of child led club members trained in CP issues, including identification and referral of CP concerns amongst their peers 648 (395M, 253F) number of members of child led clubs were trained on CP issues including identification and referral of child protection concerns among their peers in addition to this 25 child led groups were supported to identify and organized educational and entertainment programmes on basic child protection issues such as FGM early marriage, and child labor.

#### Objective 3:

Strengthened systems/structures for prevention and response against violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children

According to FY'15 report shows 35 (32M, 3F) number of humanitarian actors received training on Minimum standard for CP in Humanitarian Action, whereas FY'14 report indicate that 5 number of camps that have comprehensive and strong case management and coordination system in place; 20 number of community based structures that develop and implement an action plan based on recommendations from capacity assessment; 158(104M, 54F) CBCPC members that received training on case management and coordination of CP identification, response and referral and on reunification process. In addition to these 179(96M, 83F) representatives of community based structures trained on child safe guarding, in order to improve the child protection system 20 community based structure networks established.

There is no secondary data that designate of boys and girls at risk and affected by violence who have used prevention and response services through the strengthened child protection system, of CP and CP IMS officers trained on child protection information management system; of humanitarian demonstrated improved capacity in responding to child protection issues and of humanitarian workers better skill/knowledge demonstrated case management,

#### Results from FGD and KIIs

# Knowledge, attitude and practice of the target population towards child protection:

From the onset the assessment aimed at assessing the knowledge of the refugee community including children; about child protection. The response of community members and children contacted fo this assessment shows that they have good knowledge about children protection. They define child protection as the prevention and response to abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. They have also added that child protection is an action taken to protect children from both physical and psychological harm. Respondents of this assessment both from the FGD sessions and KII expressed their view that child protection is an important intervention which helps children to be safe and protected. Some members of the community explained that, they did not know what child protection is before they come to the refugee camps and further mentioned that after they have attended trainings by SC they come to realize what child protection is. Participants felt that protecting children is important because they are the future of their community and country and deserves protection as their have the right to protection that's guaranteed by the UNCRC.

Another dimension that indicates the good level of knowledge of the community is that they are clear about the need to identify children who are at risks and affected by protection concerns and report them to concerned bodies so that children get available protection services. ARRA, UNHCR, health centers and other IPs including SC are mentioned as agencies where they report cases of child protection. Some also mentioned the community's role in intervening and addressing child protection issues at community level.

#### Prevalence and types of child protection issues:

Prevalence and types of child protection concerns were also a focus of this assessment. Thus, participants of the

assessment adults, children and ARRA and UNHCR people were asked to mention the types and most prevalent child protection concerns that exist in their camps. Accordingly, rape, physical abuse, FGM, child marriage, neglect and denial of the basic needs of children, family separation were pointed out as the most prevalent child protection concerns.

## Child protection mechanisms/structures in the intervention camps

As part of its emergency response in the protection sector SC prioritizes the establishment of community based child protection mechanisms as a means to prevent and responds to child protection concerns. In view of knowing what the community thinks of community based child protection structures and mechanisms, FGD participants and key informants were asked if they ever know who are the community based child protection structures and they mentioned, among others, child led groups, child protection committees, child protection volunteers, refugee central committee and youth associations, women associations etc. They've also added that these communities based structures are playing active role in awareness raising about child protection, identification of at risk and affected children, mediation between parents and children & referring cases of abuse to SC child protection program and other agencies providing protection services for children.

#### **Local capacity**

Assessing the local capacity that exists in the community is one of the objectives of this assessment. To this end, key informants were asked about the existing local capacity and in their view there is a generally good capacity at local level. Families are becoming aware about the bad consequences of abuse, neglect and exploitation and starting to take good care of children despite the challenge in the household economy. Although, the deeply embedded cultural attitudes which

are mixed with religious values are posing a protection threat towards girls, through trainings and continued awareness raising efforts, traditional leaders are showing sign of changed attitude. Despite the ever, decreasing funding situation UNHCR is allocating funds for protection actors including SC.

A part from these, there is no notable capacity at local a level. Hence, there is a need for continued capacity building to be able to protect children at larger scale. Key informant suggested for a continuous capacity

building of community leaders, volunteers and staff of humanitarian agencies to have a better capacity to prevent and responds to child protection concerns. Ongoing technical and materials support for community structures are also needed to ensure sustainability

### 6. Conclusions & Recommendations

#### 6.1. Conclusions:

- The assessment shows that the refugee community including has reasonably good level of knowledge about child protection. A manifestation of this is that community representatives explained that children have rights to protection and they also explained the consequence of failing to protect children. Further, they said that if they witness protection concern they would report to concerned bodies so that action is taken to protect children. However, there is still a lot more to do to bring about a change in attitude and behavior so that all bad practices that are happening on children are reduced and finally eliminated.
- The assessment further revealed that there is a still a high prevalence of child protection concerns in the camps. Physical and humiliating punishment of children, child labor, abandonment, denial of basic needs, sexual and gender based violence such as rape, female genital mutilation/cutting child marriage were pointed out as the most prevalent child protection concerns. This means that Sc has a lot to do to eradicate these protection concerns so that children are safe while living in the camps.
- The research also identified the child protection mechanisms and structures that existing in the camps. Among them are child led groups (CLGs), child protection committees (CPCs), child protection volunteers, refugee central committee, youth and women associations. There are also child protection coordination and case management meetings that are taking place among agencies providing services to children.
- The assessment also found out there is a generally good capacity at local level. Families are becoming aware about the bad consequences of abuse, neglect and exploitation and starting to take good care of their children despite the economic hardship they are facing at the household. Although, the deeply

embedded cultural attitudes which are mixed with religious values are posing a protection threat towards girls, through trainings and continued awareness raising efforts, traditional leaders are demonstrating changed attitude.

#### **6.2 Recommendations:**

The assessment suggests that the child protection on the ground needs to give attention to the following recommendations:

- ✓ While there is a good level of knowledge about child protection, there a need to work hard focusing on behavior and practice change; that's where need to focus to bring about a lasting change in the protection of children.
- Although there is an increase in knowledge level about child protection concerns and their consequences, there is still a high prevalence various child protection concerns. Hence, Save the Children needs to further intensify its awareness raising effort, better mobilize the community to be able to identify children who are at risk and affected by protection concerns so that they are provided with appropriate prevention and remedial services.
- ✓ Save the Children also needs to continue with the capacity building work so that there exists a better capacity at local level sometime in the future. As there is a turnover of committees and associations members there is need to continually provide capacity building training. Besides, there is need for ongoing technical and materials support for community structures to ensure sustainability in the long run.

#### Annex: -

#### Focus group discussion and key informant interview questions

### Focus Group Discussion Guiding Questions - Adults

Introduction: Save the Children is conducting a baseline assessment under its child protection program. The assessment findings will be used to inform program design and also to measure the results made as a result of its interventions. This FGD, that we are about to conduct with you is part of the data/information collection process. Hence, your genuine ideas will be of a great help in enhancing the quality of the assessment result. (2 hours max)

Thank you very much for taking time to discuss with us!

- 1. What do you understand about child protection?
- 2. Do you think protecting children from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation is a useful work? How do you explain that?
- 3. What do you do as a person/community to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation?
- 4. What kind of protection concerns exist in this camp? Can you please mention them? Which ones are most prevalent? Can you put them in order of prevalence?
- 5. What capacity does the community, local government or NGOs have to respond to the protection needs of children in the camps?
- 6. In your view, what support can possibly be provided to improve the situation of child protection?
- 7. What child protection mechanisms do exist in this camp known to you? How do they operate and how do they work with the community?
- 8. Who does the awareness raising activity about the need for protecting children? Do you all know where to report in case an abuse or exploitation happened to a child?

#### THANKS ONCE AGAIN!

### Focus Group Discussion Guiding Questions - Children

Introduction: Save the Children is conducting a baseline assessment under its child protection program. The assessment findings will be used to inform program design and also to measure the results made as a result of its interventions. This FGD, that we are about to conduct with you is part of the data/information collection process. Hence, your genuine ideas will be of a great help in enhancing the quality of the assessment result. (2 hours max)

Thank you very much for taking time to discuss with us!

- 9. What do you understand about child protection?
- 10. Do you think protecting children from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation is a useful work? How do you explain that?
- 11. What do you do as children to protect yourself and your fellow children from abuse, neglect and exploitation?
- 12. What kind of protection concerns exist in this camp? Can you please mention them? Which ones are most prevalent? Can you put them in order of prevalence?
- 13. In your view, what can be done to improve the situation of child protection?
- 14. What child protection mechanisms do exist in this camp known to you? How do they operate and how do they work with the community?
- 15. Who does the awareness raising activity about the need for protecting children? Do you all know where to report in case an abuse or exploitation happened to you or other children?

#### THANKS ONCE AGAIN!

## FGD with Foster/Kinship Care Providers

Introduction: Save the Children is conducting a baseline assessment under its child protection program. The assessment findings will be used to inform program design and also to measure the results made as a result of its interventions. This FGD, that we are about to conduct with you is part of the data/information collection process. Hence, your genuine ideas will be of a great help in enhancing the quality of the assessment result. (2 hours max)

Thank you very much for taking time to discuss with us!

- 16. What do you understand about child protection?
- 17. Do you think arranging/providing alternative care for UASC is necessary? Can you guess what will happen if UASC are not placed in alternative care system?
- 18. So, for how many children are you providing foster/kinship care? What factors motivate you to agree to support the child/children?
- 19. How does it feel to support children who are either unaccompanied or separated?
- 20. What challenges does it entail raising children who are UASC? What extra efforts is it requiring you to support the child/children under your custody?
- 21. Have you ever, received trainings on topics such as child protection, child development, parenting skills, positive child disciplining etc?
- 22. How helpful was the training? How did it help you in your effort to raise both your and the fostered children?
- 23. What support did the children under your custody received? Can you please mention them? How frequent are the Save the Children Social Workers visiting the child/children under your care?
- 24. Do you know where to report in case an abuse or exploitation happened to a child?

#### THANKS ONCE AGAIN!

### FGD with UASC Placed in Alternative Care System

Introduction: Save the Children is conducting a baseline assessment under its child protection program. The assessment findings will be used to inform program design and also to measure the results made as a result of its interventions. This FGD, that we are about to conduct with you is part of the data/information collection process. Hence, your genuine ideas will be of a great help in enhancing the quality of the assessment result. (2 hours max)

Thank you very much for taking time to discuss with us!

- 25. For how long have you been with your care providers? Are your care providers your relatives?
- 26. Are your care providers sending you to school? At which grade/level are you now?
- 27. How does it feel to be UASC? What does it feel living with an alternative care provider?
- 28. Can you guess what would have happened to you if you were not placed in alternative care systems?
- 29. Do you think arranging/providing alternative care for UASC is necessary? How do you explain that?
- 30. What challenges are you facing in the care arrangement you are living in? If any?
- 31. What support did you receive? Can you please mention them? How frequent are the Save the Children Social Workers visiting you?
- 32. Do you know where to report in case an abuse or exploitation happened to you?
- 33. Lastly, is there any things you would like to tell us?

#### THANKS ONCE AGAIN!

## Key Informant Interview Guiding Questions - Adults

Introduction: Save the Children is conducting a baseline assessment under its child protection program. The assessment findings will be used to inform program design and also to measure the results made as a result of its interventions. This KII, that we are about to conduct with you is part of the data/information collection process. Hence, your genuine ideas will be of a great help in enhancing the quality of the assessment result. (I hour max)

Thank you very much for taking time to discuss with us!

34. What do you understand about child protection?

- 35. In your view, do you think protecting children from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation is a useful work? How do you explain that?
- 36. What do you do as a person to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation?
- 37. What do you suggest that the community should do to create a safe world for children?
- 38. What kind of protection concerns exist in this camp/s? Can you please mention them? Which ones are most prevalent? Can you put them in order of prevalence?
- 39. What capacity does the community, local government or NGOs have to respond to the protection needs of children in the camps?
- 40. In your view, what support can possibly be provided to improve the situation of child protection?
- 41. What child protection mechanisms do exist in this camp known to you? How do they operate and how do they work with the community?
- 42. In general terms how do you evaluate what SC is doing and what recommendations will you have to further enhance the CP programming?

THANKS ONCE AGAIN!