

CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES COORDINATION MECHANISM

Provincial Disaster Management Authority
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

By
Child Protection Program
Provincial Disaster Management Authority
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Acronyms

CPiECM	Child Protection in Emergencies Coordination Mechanism
CP	Child Protection
CBO	Community Based Organization
CPWC	Child Protection Welfare Commission
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
GCC	Gender and Child Cell
PEOC	Provincial Emergency Operation Centre
DDMU	District Disaster Management Unit
DDMO	District Disaster Management Officer
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children
NGO	Non-Government Organization
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children`s Fund

Child Protection Coordination Mechanism and Its Significance

Child protection is very important aspect in disaster management. Children as being nearly all vulnerable need special response and care. Planning ahead of time ensures timely and accurate response to this at risk population.

An effective coordination mechanism ensures well-timed, harmonized and precise action to the urgent situation of emergency or disaster whether natural or manmade.

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a provincial level institution mandated to effectively set up a system to look after natural and manmade disasters. The establishment of PMDC and PDMA is based on the National Disaster Management Ordinance (NDMO) of 23rd December 2006 which forms the legal basis for the implementation of the National Disaster Management Framework (NDMF) provided by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Khyber Pukhtunkhwa has shown inventiveness in introducing many initiatives in the past years to build up the capacity of related stakeholders for ensuring child protection in emergencies. Following the same line of action PDMA is now working diligently to incorporate the Child Protection segment in its disaster management plans.

PDMA through comprehensive and in depth consultations with different stake holders is presenting a functional coordination mechanism for child protection during emergencies. This mechanism will aim to strengthen the competencies of relevant stakeholders working in the area of child protection and will aim to provide consequential protection for the population under the age of 18 during emergencies.

“Relevant and responsible authorities, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations and representative of affected populations coordinate their child protection efforts in order to ensure full, efficient and timely response”

(Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action-Standard 1 -Coordination)

Right and timely coordination helps in assisting the related bodies in facilitating child protection and targeting the issues related to it. It brings all the relevant actors on one platform for achieving the better result.

Child Protection in Emergencies Coordination Mechanism (CPiECM) presented in this document also defines the roles and responsibilities of the related actors. The document will facilitate the CPiECM and will define the standard procedure adapted for child protection during disasters. The resource is designed with an understanding that it will help strengthen the coordination among the related actors in this course of action, starting from the root level. The manual will also help in strengthening the commitment of coordination among the related actors.

The main objectives for the establishment of Coordination Mechanism are:

1. To present child protection as an important segment in disaster management;
2. To set up a standard procedure and elucidate coordination mechanism for child protection during disasters;
3. To identify the relevant actors and delegate responsibilities;
4. To clarify the roles and responsibilities of related actors

Definition of Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE)

The definition of child protection in emergencies as agreed by the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), is

“the prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children”.

Definition of a Child

According to United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC)

“A child is recognized as a person under 18, unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier”

The Convention defines a 'child' as a person below the age of 18, unless the laws of a particular country set the legal age for adulthood younger.

The Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act, 2010 defines the child in Section 2 (Definitions) under subsection (d) as

“child” for the purpose of this Act means a natural person who has not attained the age of eighteen years

Justification

Child Protection in Emergency is guided by UNCRC, Child Protection Welfare Act 2010 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, National disaster Act 2010, UNICEF Core Commitments and Minimum Standards of Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

Pakistan ratified the UNCRC on 20th September 2013. Supporting articles of United Nations Convention on Rights of Children (UNCRC) include:

Article 6: Every Child has right to life

Article 9: The child has a right to live with his or her parents

Article 19: The state should protect the child from all forms of maltreatment

Article 23: A disabled child has the right to special care, education and training

Article 35: It is the State's obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children

Article 39: The State has an obligation to ensure that child victims of armed conflicts, torture, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social reintegration,

Article 41: Wherever standards set in applicable national and international law relevant to the rights of the child that are higher than those in this Convention, the higher standard shall always apply

Logical Fine Points of Child Protection Coordination Mechanism and Facilitation Bodies

Pre-Disaster

- Ensure that well defined child protection coordination mechanism is in place;
- Activate the dissemination of important information in regards to children effected during previous disasters and related issues;
- Promote awareness about child protection concerns and children welfare focused legislations, both national and international;
- Modify Child Protection Rapid Assessment in local context ;
- Evaluate the existing child protection response procedures among different stakeholders;
- Set up service directory based on 4Ws tools in partnership with stakeholders;
- Ensure that expected human resource as actors in the CPiECM are trained and prepared.

Response

- Bring the related actors on board and define roles and responsibilities according to the CPiECM;
- Ensure the information management related to issues of children during disaster for prioritizing the response;
- Based on 4Ws and organizational capacities agree on line of action;
- Ensure protection of children and women by bringing in all the related actors in the coordination mechanism;
- Respond to violations of child rights;

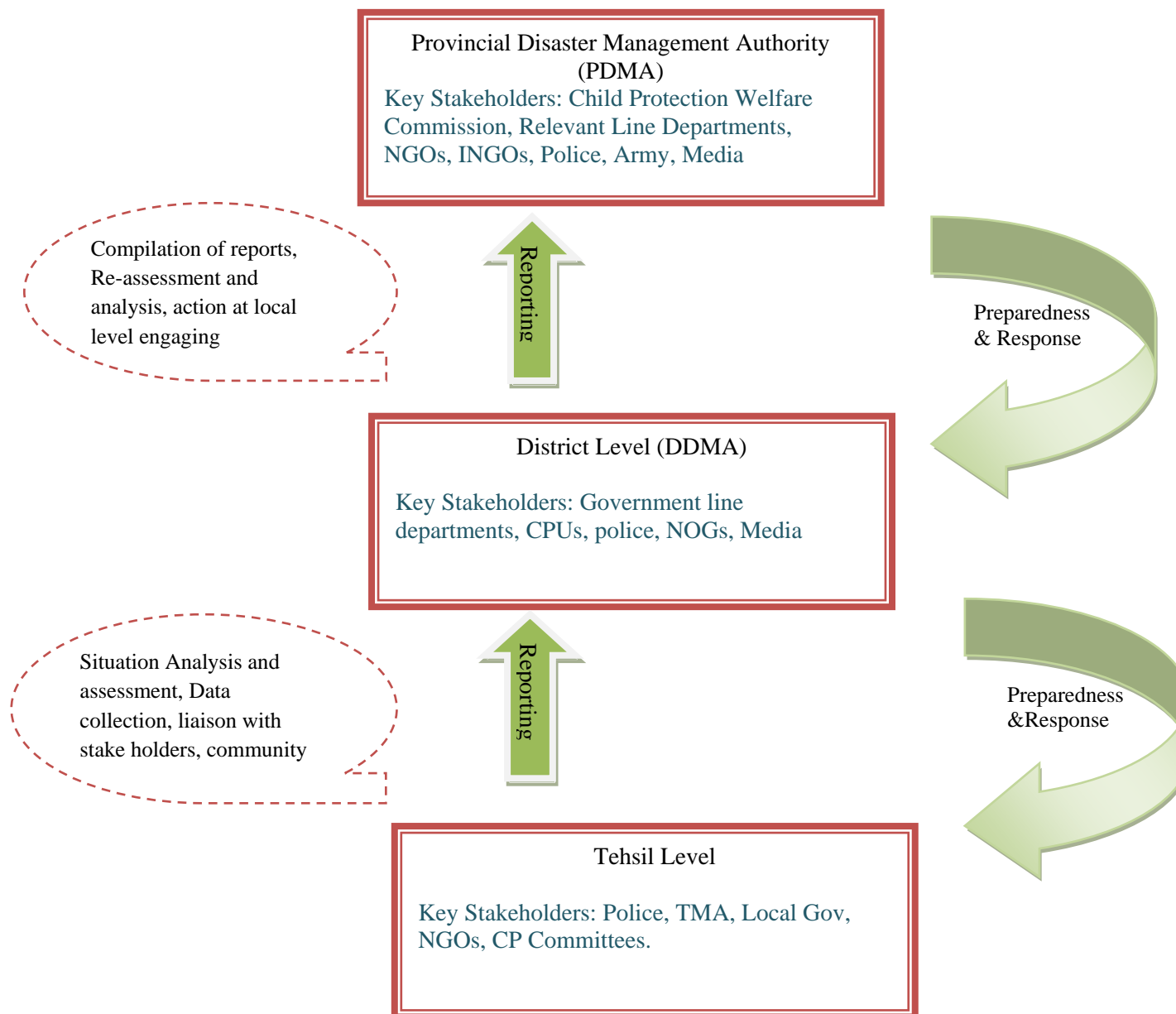
To timely address the facilitation of the basic services like Protection, Health, Water and Sanitation and Education will be addressed by the following partners;

Protection: CPWC, PDMA, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, Police and Protection Cluster (Child Protection Sub-Cluster & Gender Based Violence Sub-Cluster), Rescue 1122(for emergency response)

Health: Health Department, PDMA, Health Cluster and Child Protection Sub-Cluster

Education: Elementary and Secondary Education Department, PDMA, Education Cluster and Child Protection Sub-Cluster

Child Protection in Emergencies Coordination Mechanism - PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Coordination Partners – Coordination Mechanism for Child Protection in Emergencies

It is very important to identify the key actors to operationalize CPiECM. The identification will make the actors responsible for their role and will help them commit to the tasks that they are assigned. The identified actors are:

Main Actors

- 1- Protection and Welfare Commission/ Social Welfare Department;
- 2- Provincial Disaster Management Authority at District and Provincial Level (PDMA & DDMU);

Related Actors

1. Related Government Departments
2. I/NGOs, UN agencies and CBO

Main Actors

Child Protection and Welfare Commission Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

(under the umbrella of Social Welfare Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

Roles and Responsibilities

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Commission (CPWC) was established under enactment of [Child Protection and Welfare Act 2010](#). CPWC is functioning under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Social Welfare & Women Development Department. The commission works to enhance the safety, welfare and well being of children in the community. It also carries out community development programs related to children and established close linkages with all the related stakeholders.

“During emergencies, the commission will provide emergency supplies and to ensure that children are protected in safe places as well continue schooling (<http://kpcpwc.gov.pk/>) “

The Commission's responsibilities include:

- Close collaboration and support to PDMA, DDMU and other humanitarian agencies for child protection related matters;
- Assist in rapid assessment;
- Case identification and verification;
- Enhancing safety and wellbeing of children during emergencies;
- Case referrals to the related institutions;
- Information sharing and making referrals;
- Monitoring exercises

Provincial Disaster Management Authority Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Roles and Responsibilities

PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was established in 2010. The institution is mandated to take care of preparedness, response and mitigation measure for disaster related issues. PDMA in order to provide guidance and to cope with the response documents Monsoon Contingency Plans every year. The document clearly presents the well-defined contingency planning during the Monsoon phase. PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is in the process of documenting its provincial disaster preparedness plan.

PDMA has a defined structure for responding to the child protection related issues during disasters. With the establishment of Gender and Child Cell in PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and notifying a committee, PDMA has added to the strengthening of institutional capacity for disaster management. Related bodies in PDMA for responding to the child protection related issues are:

- Child Protection Unit (under Gender and Child Cell) PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- District Disaster Management Units in 25 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa(DDMU)
- Provincial Emergency Operations Centre PDMA(PEOC)

Functions Related to Child Protection in Emergencies

Child Protection Unit PDMA

- Map out and strengthen the relevant coordination and referral links between PDMA and government departments in relation to child protection services
- Sustain directory of the humanitarian organizations, civil society organizations and service providers for child protection and related services
- Maintain accurate information management related to child protection, in particular, cases of separated and unaccompanied children identified during emergency in close coordination with the Child Protection and Welfare Commission
- Update all concerned partners and stakeholders on changes in response mechanisms, any upcoming needs and any CP- related developments on the policy level.
- Ensure appropriate coordination between all child protection government and humanitarian partners
- Promote gender equality by ensuring that the needs, contributions and capacities of women and girls as well as men and boys are addressed;

DDMU

- Maintain effective communication mechanism regarding early warning systems
- Retain the coordination and information management with child protection unit PDMA
- Liaison with children service providers at district level for maintenance of child protection service directory
- Assist in assessment done in regards to post disaster Child Protection Rapid Assessment (CPRA)
- Forward urgent information related to child protection to all relevant agencies for immediate response.
- Assist the stakeholders in temporary relief for child protection related cases

- Effective contact with CPWC at district level for the issues related to displaced, unaccompanied, separated and missing children

PEOC

- Coordinate Disaster Response/crises management activities related to children with PDMA management
- Provide information and updates related to child protection to the related authorities
- Maintain the information loop within PDMA
- To obtain and disseminate information related to children during disaster to PDMA and concerned authorities

Related Actors

Relevant Government Departments

- 1- Elementary and Secondary Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- 2- Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- 3- Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- 4- Home and Tribal Affairs Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

I/NGOs, UN agencies and CBO

The role of I/NGOs, UN agencies and CBO will be specified by PDMA and CPWC during the time of disaster.

General roles include:

- Service provision;
- Mobilization of community and awareness;
- Reporting;
- Preventive measures;
- To coordinate with PDMA and CPWC for situation analysis of Emergency;
- To find out the required needs in emergency in close coordination with PDMA;
- To develop strategy with PDMA and CPWC to respond to emergency;
- To ensure humanitarian assistance as per humanitarian law;
- Protecting human rights during emergency;
- To fill up the gaps with close coordination with PDMA.

Contact information of Focal Persons

S.No	Focal Persons	Organization	Contact
1	Director General	PDMA	091-9213855
2	Director Relief, Operation and Coordination	PDMA	091-9211805
3	Deputy Director (T&A)	PDMA	091-9211854
4	CP Coordinator	PDMA	091-9218128
5	CP M&E Officer	PDMA	091-9218128
6	Gender Coordinator	PDMA	091-9218128
7	Assistant Director (IT) In charge PEOC	PDMA	091-9213845
8	CP Coordinator	FDMA	091-9216336
9	CP Cluster Coordinator	CP Sub Cluster KP/FATA	091-5701311
10	Assistant Chief Operations	CPWC	091-9218643