



## Workshop Report: Integrating Child Protection and Food Security in Nigeria.



Maiduguri, Borno, Nigeria  
30-31 August 2022

## Overview

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) and Food Security & Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster of Borno, Nigeria organized a joint workshop on Integrating Child Protection and Food Security (CP-FS) Programming from 30-31 August.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- (1) Strengthen skills and knowledge of child protection and food security actors to **collaborate** and design and implement **integrated programming**.
- (2) Identify **good practices and opportunities** for increased collaboration between the child protection and food security sectors.

The workshop was supported by Plan International Nigeria as part of a [global initiative](#), launched in 2022, by the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility in partnership with Plan International. The aim of the initiative is to enhance field support and coordination between child protection and food security clusters and promote shared outcomes for children. In collaboration with the Global Food Security Cluster, this initiative aims to provide practitioners with case studies, tools and resources to integrate child protection and food security responses.

## Workshop participants

Interested members from the CP AoR and Food Security & Livelihoods Cluster were encouraged to apply to participate in the workshop using a pre-workshop survey and application form. A total of 76 applications were received. Short-listing and selection of participants was completed by the CP AoR and FSL cluster coordinators, co-coordinators, and Plan International, using the criteria outlined in the workshop [Terms of Reference](#).

A total of 32 participants were invited to participate in the workshop, alongside from the coordinators and co-coordinators of the CP AoR and FSL Cluster. Participants included staff from 27 CBO/CSOs, NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, and government representatives. A total of 28 participants attended the workshop.

## Workshop Content

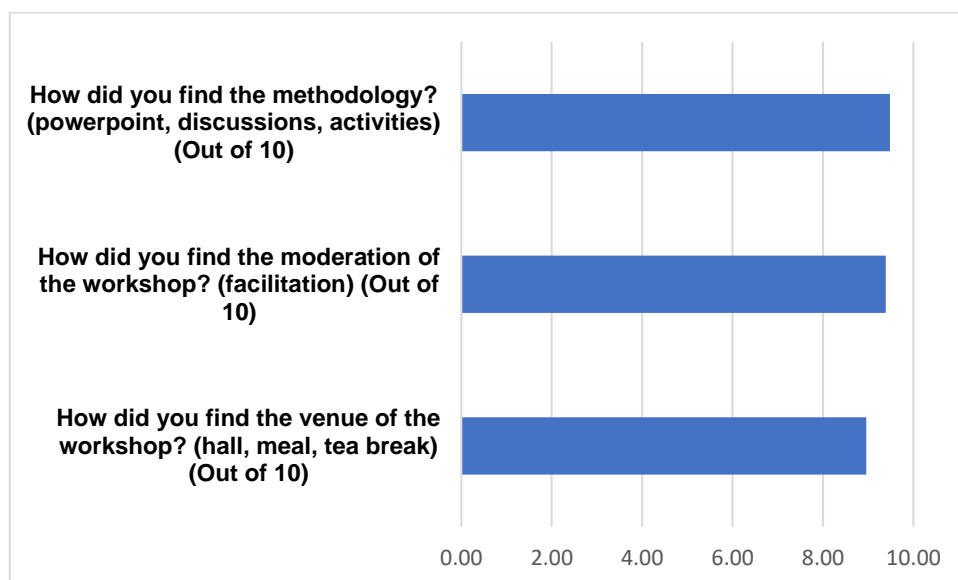
All workshop presentation materials are available [here](#). The agenda is available [here](#).

The workshop covered the following sessions:

- Key concepts and definitions of child protection and food security
- Linkages between food insecurity and child protection
- Overview of key policy documents
- Child protection mainstreaming into FSL programs and key actions
- Reflections on collaboration between child protection and food security actors
- Key considerations for designing and implementing integrated child protection and food security programming
- Opportunities, barriers, and resources/tools for collaboration between CP and FSL actors

## Feedback from participants

An end-of-workshop feedback form was completed by all workshop participants. Overall feedback on the workshop was positive and participants expressed satisfaction with the workshop methodology and content (9.5/10), facilitation (9.4/10), and organization (9.0/10).

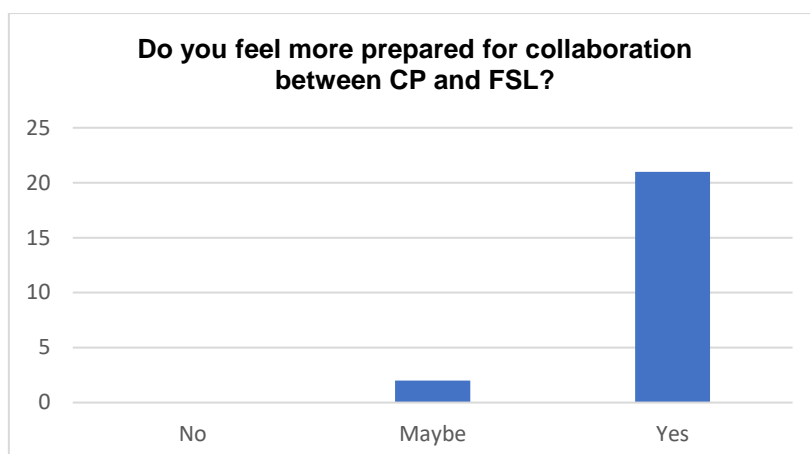


A couple of workshop participants expressed interest in further capacity-strengthening sessions on child protection programming and guiding principles of CP and FSL programming. Recommendations including organizing additional opportunities for capacity-building of CP and FSL actors, including those working at field-level

In terms of additional content that would be useful, feedback included a deeper discussion of conducting joint needs assessment and data analysis, and monitoring and evaluation of integrated CP-FSL programs. Due to the duration of the workshop, the workshop was not able to cover these topics. Additional feedback included reviewing current CP and FSL coordination mechanisms and associated challenges and best practices.

During the workshop, participants also emphasized the need to follow-up on discussions and action points following the workshop after a period of time to continue the momentum of CP-FSL collaboration.

Finally, most participants (21/23) who completed the feedback form expressed feeling more prepared for CP-FSL collaboration. The complete feedback can be found [here](#).



## Workshop Discussion and Findings

During the workshop, participants engaged in several discussions on the linkages between food insecurity and child protection and the ways in which collaboration is currently occurring and could be strengthened.

- Participants agree there is a **linkage** between food insecurity and child protection risks. However, the degree and nature of the relationship requires further clarification. For example, there was some debate as to which CP risks are most impacted by food security in NE Nigeria.
- Participants also agreed that while there is indeed a linkage, **CP risks associated with food insecurity have not been prioritized for action** by both affected populations and humanitarian actors.
- Participants identified several actions that are currently being taken in the context to mainstreaming child protection considerations into FSL programming.

*Table 1: List of CP mainstreaming actions during food distributions identified by workshop participants*

Element	Actions
Safety and Dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting CP risk assessments of FSL activities</li> <li>- Referrals of UASC and CHH to CP actors</li> <li>- Discouraging children's presence at distribution points</li> <li>- Limiting distance CHH need to travel to distribution points</li> <li>- Ensuring shade, water, and mats at distribution points</li> <li>- Awareness raising on CP risks</li> <li>- Prioritizing PLWs in distribution queues</li> </ul>
Meaningful Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring that vulnerable groups, such as children formerly associated with armed groups, are included in and gain access to FSL interventions in order to prevent re-enlistment</li> <li>- Ensuring content of distributions are suitable for children</li> <li>- Decentralization of vendors to limit travel distance to vendors and risk of exploitation</li> <li>- Date/time and location of distribution sites to ensure recipients have ample time to travel and return</li> <li>- Sharing information about distributions</li> <li>- For CHH, identifying a third-party to collect on behalf of children, using a verification process</li> <li>- "Mop-up" practices for those unable to attend the actual distribution</li> </ul>
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of child-friendly mechanisms and consultations with children</li> <li>- Child-friendly help desks</li> <li>- Development case studies and stories documenting how programs benefit children</li> <li>- Results and findings from PDMs</li> <li>- Banners and other IEC materials with information on providing feedback and complaints mechanisms</li> </ul>

Participation and Empowerment	
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- Participants agreed that **CP mainstreaming actions are not consistently being applied to FSL programming** and that **child participation and empowerment** is the most significant gap.
- **Referrals** of vulnerable children into FSL programming was highlighted as a challenge by CP participants.
  - Challenges to referrals of CP cases into FSL programming including available budget, timing of referrals within the project cycle, and existence of a contingency case load. Contingencies are normally reserved for new arrivals.
  - An identified **good practice consists of FSL actors reserving a percentage of food assistance program participants to be identified and referred by CP actors**. Save the Children Nigeria reported planning for referrals from CP actors (both Save and non-Save actors) in their FSL programming.
- In cases where FSL actors identify CP cases, but no CP organizations are present, FSL actors require clarity on how to respond.
- In some cases, both CP and FSL actors may not be aware of the other sector's programs, services, operating locations, and selection criteria.
- Currently, there is **limited to no collaboration between CP and FSL actors in developing vulnerability or selection criteria** for both CP and FSL programs.
- Child-headed households do currently receive food assistance from FSL organizations. Where CP organizations are present, FSL actors' collaboration with CP actors to ensure CHH receive CP services and food assistance. Where no CP organizations are present, FSL actors have put in place risk mitigation measures. These measures and good practices are currently not documented.
- A positive example of collaboration included FAO's Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) initiative, which distributes fuel-efficient stoves to survivors of SGBV and coordinating with the CP and GBV sub-clusters to identify recipients. Fuel efficient stoves have been documented to reduce women and girls' risk of GBV.
- Participants identified several existing forms of collaboration between CP and FSL actors within integrated programs.

*Table 2: Integrated CP-FSL interventions currently happening or \*which participants agreed were possible*

<b>Individual</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of a CP case management case plan, referring older adolescents into vocational training, IGA, VSLA, or other livelihoods interventions</li> <li>• Older adolescents who are members of life skills groups also targeting for livelihoods interventions such as IGA or VSLA</li> </ul>
<b>Family/Household</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heads of household targeted by food distribution programs receive messages on positive parenting or access to group-based psychosocial support</li> <li>• Caregivers who receive entrepreneurial skills (IGA, VSLA, family-based schemes) also receive messages on CP risks and positive parenting, or access to group-based psychosocial support</li> <li>• Caregivers who are enrolled in positive parenting curriculums then enrolled into agricultural support, entrepreneurial skills, or work for food programs</li> </ul>
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint awareness raising</li> <li>• *Coordinated help desks between CP and FSL actors</li> <li>• *Coordinated or harmonized community-based structures (PMC members include members of community-level CP mechanisms)</li> </ul>

- Participants also reflected on additional opportunities and barriers to collaboration between CP and FSL actors along the program cycle and tools and resources that could further support collaboration. Opportunities include:

- Strengthen collaboration on needs assessments and data analysis, including jointly analysing findings from CP and FSL needs assessments as part of HNOs, Cadre Harmonise Analysis, and other processes
- Capacity-strengthening for FSL actors on CP Mainstreaming (upcoming training activity by FSL Sector)
- Detailed mapping of CP and FSL actors in program areas and available services and clear referral criteria and pathways
- Coordination meetings at field level between sectoral actors
- Leveraging data from existing information sources, such as Food Security Outcome Monitoring Reports, Financial Tracking System, 5Ws, and other tools
- Tools and resources that could support collaboration include:
  - Sample CP messages that FSL actors can incorporate into FSL programs
  - Sample tool to measure child well-being as part of CP-FS programming
  - Guidance and sample PDMs for FSL actors to use with children/adolescents
  - Documentation on good practices to ensure CHH receive food assistance and access to CP services
  - Guidance on jointly developing selection criteria

### Next steps

Action	Timeline	Responsible
Circulation of workshop report and materials to participants	28 September	CP AoR and FSL Cluster
Follow-up with workshop participants to identify and adapt possible tools and resources	20 September – 10 October	Yang to contact specific workshop participants and follow-up
Circulation of sample tools and resources for review, feedback, and piloting	10 October	Yang to circulate with workshop participants
Feedback on tools and resources	15 November	Yang to collect and incorporate feedback
Follow-up webinar with workshop participants and other members of CP AoR and FSL Cluster to share developed tools and resources	Early December TBD	CP AoR and FSL Cluster to circulate invite  Yang to facilitate webinar and identify speakers