

OUTCOME 4
CHILD PROTECTION

Pacific Multi-Country Programme
2018-2022

10 October 2017

practice customary law alongside national laws for the handling of cases of children in conflict with the law or contravention of social norms. Many national legal frameworks across the Pacific replicate western models of service intervention but lack the resources to be operational.

The result of weak legal and policy frameworks is that the child protection system does not adequately designate roles and duties of ministries and departments, causing a vacuum in system oversight and accountability. Significant progress has been made to find restorative solutions (rather than adversarial ones) for children in conflict with the law, but ensuring equitable outcomes consistent with the rule of law remains problematic. This is especially the case for girls whose families and communities negotiate settlements even in severe cases of sexual abuse. A number of countries have made good progress in developing contextualised policies for child and family welfare but others are still not tailored and realistic given the cultural context and the resources available.

Vulnerability to disasters: Child protection issues have still to be systematically mainstreamed into the national strategies for Disaster Risk Management. Inter-agency mechanisms for child protection in emergencies such as joint guidelines, coordination and data exchange have not been developed or operationalised effectively, leaving children at risk of family separation and exploitation in times of disaster. The Pacific region is prone to natural disasters, especially typhoons and cyclones. These disasters - along with the increasing impact of climate change – continue to have devastating effects on island populations. As seen in the case of the cyclones Pam in Vanuatu (2015) and Winston in Fiji (2016), children lost parents and extended family networks, became homeless and were forced to migrate to urban centres and to new communities. This jeopardised previously secure livelihoods and increased poverty rates among those affected.

2.2. Priority child protection deprivation

Based on the situation analysis and using the five Results Based Management (RBM) key filters to determine what UNICEF should prioritise in its country programmes, the major child protection deprivation for which UNICEF in the Pacific will focus upon in the 2018-2022 Multi-Country Programme is:

Children in the Pacific are not having their right to protection against physical and sexual violence and abuse met.

The manifestation of this deprivation is clearly highlighted by the data – albeit limited – on sexual violence against girls and on physical violence at home and in schools against boys and girls. Too many children across the Pacific region suffer violence in childhood and it is likely that many face multiple deprivations at the same time. These violations have severe consequences for individual children, their families, communities and society at large. Not only do they limit the ability of children to develop to their full potential and to achieve educational goals and health targets, but they also adversely affect the economic development of Pacific nations.¹³⁶ In addition to the credibility and strong partnerships that UNICEF Pacific has with governments and civil society in the Pacific countries in relation to child protection, the launch of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children also positions UNICEF at the centre of the response.

UNICEF recognises that other child protection concerns persist in PICTs and will conduct further research into these issues in 2017/18. Such issues include: family violence; child marriage and teenage pregnancy; and child labour and sexual exploitation. Where appropriate, UNICEF will collaborate with and/or support other mandated agencies (such as UN Women, IOM, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP) to enhance protection outcomes for children.

3. THEORY OF CHANGE

The Theory of Change for the UNICEF priority deprivation in child protection describes the change pathway to move from the current manifestation of the deprivation, where ***“Too many children in the Pacific are***

¹³⁶ Fang, X et al, The burden of child maltreatment in the East Asia and Pacific region, Child Abuse and Neglect, 2015.

experiencing sexual and/or physical violence and abuse” to the desired state, where “All Pacific island children are protected from all forms of violence and abuse”.

To achieve this desired state, parents, families and communities will be able to provide the care and protection necessary for children to grow up in safe homes, in a society that does not tolerate sexual or physical violence against anyone. In this scenario, girls and boys will be protected in their homes, in their schools and their communities. The government will demonstrate its commitment by developing comprehensive child protection systems to support parents, families and communities to prevent and respond to violence and exploitation.

The Theory of Change that articulates the scenario described above is:

IF the enabling environment for child protection is strengthened through the development of robust legal and policy frameworks, AND social welfare and justice sectors, as well as education and health sectors, are strengthened by improving the capacity of the workforce as well as the supply and quality of services, and multi-sector multi-stakeholder strategic and operational coordination mechanisms are strengthened, AND government and communities work alongside to tackle harmful social and cultural attitudes and practices, AND resilience is developed to mitigate the impact of poverty, migration and disasters, AND equity and gender targeting ensures that care and protection measures reach the most at risk children and families, THEN parents, families and communities will be better able to care for and protect girls and boys against violence and exploitation, AND governments will be able to support them through the provision of accessible, non-discriminatory and high quality social services, including social welfare, health and education – as per their respective roles in child protection, and child-friendly justice measures, including justice and police. The Theory of Change states that IF these outcomes are achieved, THEN girls and boys in PICTs, especially the most at risk, will be protected against violence and abuse.

IF women and children are valued and respected within society as equals, AND community members, faith-based organizations and other societal leaders denounce and act against the widespread tolerance and impunity of sexual violence, AND perpetrators are held to account for their actions, AND the government ensures that effective, quality social services (prevention and response) are accessible to children and families, THEN fewer girls and boys will be subjected to sexual violence.

AND

IF parents have the knowledge on the impact of violent discipline on their children and the skills to practice positive discipline, and IF they receive support from their extended families and communities, and IF parents are supported by communities, families and welfare services to better cope with stress, then parents will adopt positive discipline practices, and THEN fewer children will be subjected to domestic violence.

AND

IF families and communities denounce corporal punishment and violence AND education and other social service agencies develop and implement policies against corporal punishment and violence, AND if perpetrators are held to account for their actions, THEN fewer children will be subjected to corporal punishment and violence.

AND

IF children are raised to believe that physical and emotional violence is harmful and socially unacceptable, AND parents, teachers and other adults educate and guide children in positive social norms, AND set a good example by practicing non-violent behavior and by treating other people with respect, especially those who are most discriminated against such as girls, children with disabilities and children of lower socio-economic status, AND bullies are held to account for their actions, THEN fewer girls and boys will be physically or emotionally bullied.

AND

IF the government prioritizes the development of a child-friendly justice system, AND allocates the financial resources, builds human capacity, and introduces laws and policies to protect children in contact with the law, AND works with community leaders to blend traditional justice mechanisms, AND, through partnerships with communities, promotes justice measures that achieve children’s best interests, THEN girls and boys will be better protected by having access to a child-friendly justice system.

If all of these conditions are achieved, then the desired state will be reached where *all Pacific island children are protected from violence and abuse.*

Please see Annex 1 for a visual representation of the Theory of Change.

Assumptions

There are two major assumptions which underpin the Theory of Change:

1. The vision for assuring better child protection outcomes is founded on a premise of developing culturally contextualised child protection systems, building upon the strengths and positive social norms and customary care practices of communities. It is assumed that duty-bearers will endorse and build upon such practices rather than trying to replicate external models of protection.
2. Achievement of the Theory of Change assumes that governments understand and prioritise remedies for the underlying causes of child protection violations and do not focus their efforts solely on the development of response systems to manage child protection cases.

Three risks have been identified which would block the change pathway from occurring in the event of their happening. In line with the risk management approach, each of these have been identified as major, in that they have both a high level of likelihood and a high level of impact.

1. Recent disasters have resulted in loss of life and livelihoods, placing families under considerable stress and compromising their ability to care for their children. The loss of parents and caregivers raises the possibility of children being orphaned and dropping out of school. Beyond the human cost, disasters tend to divert already limited human and financial resources of social service agencies away from welfare and protection towards immediate disaster relief.
2. Governments are unable to create sufficient and sustained fiscal space within their budgets to support the longer term vision of developing child protection systems and introducing change in social norms and practices.
3. Due to the sensitiveness of the issues, there is a significant risk that children and social service providers will be frightened or unwilling to report violence or abuse and/or use the available support services and channels.

4. UNICEF'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

4.1 Strategic approach

Rationale

The Child Protection Programme aims to ensure that by 2022, children in PICTs are better protected from sexual and physical violence and abuse. Recognising the inequities and disparities of opportunity across and within these island nations, the strategy will maintain its particular focus on children who are most vulnerable.

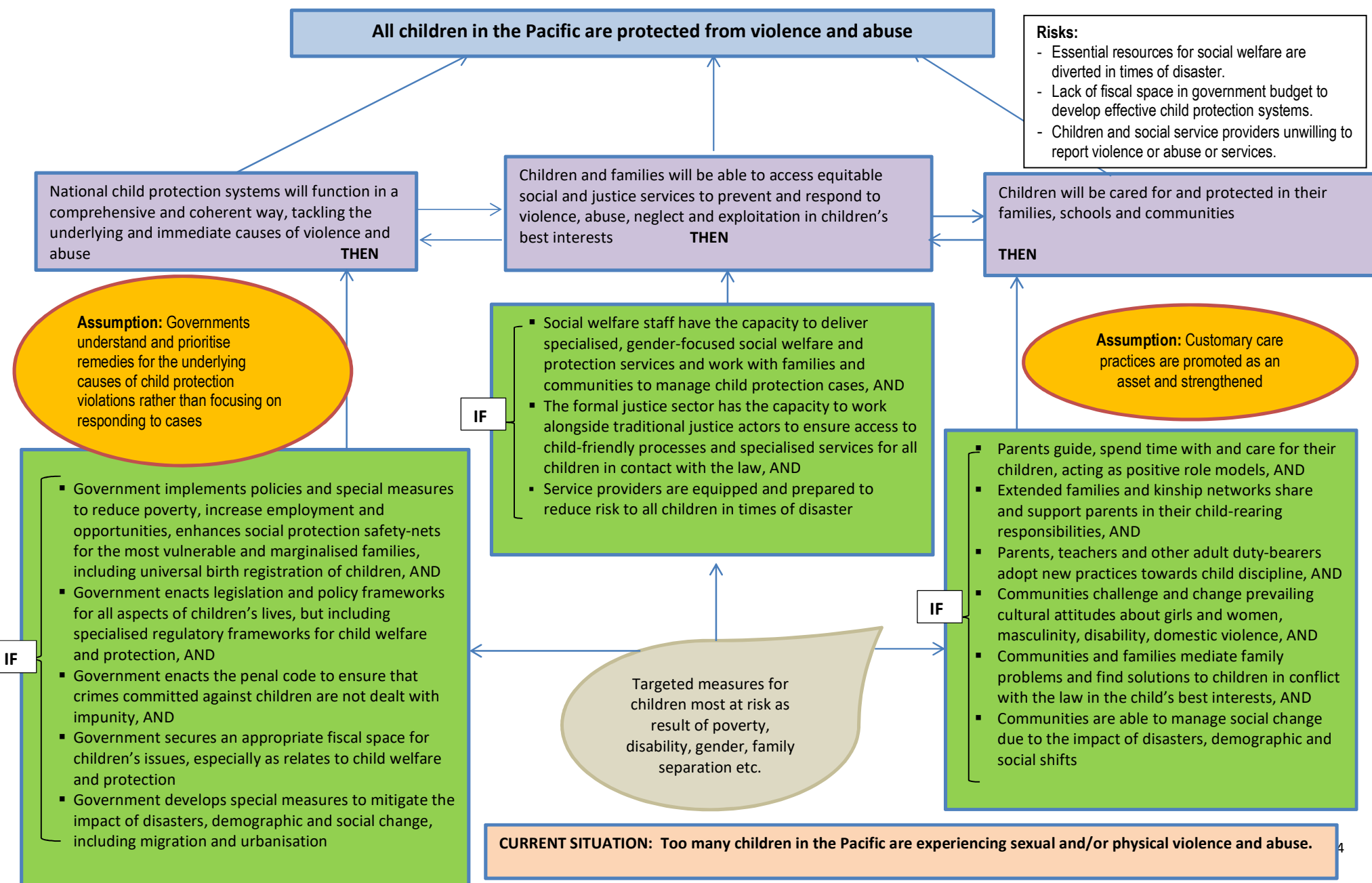
This contribution is founded upon the conclusions of regional and country studies and is aligned to UNICEF's Strategic Framework (2018-2021). The priorities outlined in this Strategy Note will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 8, 11 and 16 (SDGs 2016-2030) and the objectives outlined in the UNICEF Multi-Country Programme Document 2018-2022 for the Pacific region, along with the UN Pacific Strategy and national government and regional priorities and plans.

Towards this outcome, the UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Programme 2018-2022 will continue its efforts to advocate for and support the strengthening of national child protection systems.

UNICEF's strategic approach takes into consideration recommendations from the Mid-Term Review in 2014, specifically that the programme strengthen engagement on social norms and intensify sub-national services in focus countries with greater emphasis on the most vulnerable groups and expansion of current models.

As the evidence highlights, throughout childhood girls and boys in PICTs face significant levels of sexual, physical and emotional violence, in their homes, schools and communities. The ToC demonstrates the criticality of ensuring a comprehensive response to and prevention of all forms of violence and abuse against children,

Annex 1: Theory of Change



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Note for the Record

Subject: **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

As part of the development of the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and in accordance with recommended practice, the
UNICEF Country Office [REDACTED] has undertaken an initial screening of all proposed activities
within each draft programme component to assess their potential impact on the environment.

The Country Office applied the recommended assessment methodology as described in the PPP
Manual, Chapter 6, Section 3 (the Manual's 2011 version), namely Checklist 1 "Initial Screening".
The completed checklist attached to this note reflects that the Country Office considers that the
programme components contemplated in the draft Country Programme Document, submitted to the
UNICEF [REDACTED], should have no impact on the environment.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Attachment 1 – Checklist 1 "*Initial Screening*"

[REDACTED]

Checklist 1- Initial Screening

Does the proposed programme or project contain activities that fall under one or more of the following categories? If the answer is **NO**, and EIA is not required, and the process is complete

- | | |
|---|----|
| • Extraction of water (e.g., groundwater, surface water, and rain water) | NO |
| • Disposal of solid or liquid wastes (e.g., human faeces, animal wastes, used supplies from a health centre or health campaign) | NO |
| • Use of chemical (e.g., pesticides, insecticides, paint and water disinfectant) | NO |
| • Use of energy (e.g., coal, gas, oil, wood and hydro, solar or wind power) | NO |
| • Exploitation of natural resources (e.g., trees, plants, minerals, rocks, soil) | NO |
| • Construction work above household level (e.g., hospital or school) | NO |
| • Changing land use (deforestation, forestation, and developing industrial housing or recreational centres) | NO |
| • Agricultural production (e.g., growing crops, fish farming) | NO |
| • Industrial production (e.g., small scale town/village workshops) | NO |

