

Annex I: Glossary of Terms

Child/Youth:

Any person under the age of 18. National law or local customs may use different definition; however, ICDS' position is all persons under the age of 18 should receive equal protection regardless of local age limits.

Vulnerable Person:

Vulnerable persons are individuals aged 18 years and over who are at greater risk of significant harm due to factors such as gender, age, mental or physical health, or as a result of poverty, inequality or experience of displacement or crisis.

Safeguarding:

The responsibility that organisations have to make sure their members, staff, and programmes promote the welfare of minors and vulnerable persons and do not expose them to the risk of harm and abuse. PSEA (Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) and child protection come under this umbrella term.

Protection:

The responsibility and measures taken to prevent and respond to abuse and exploitation of a child or vulnerable adult. This includes building awareness, promoting training, identifying and responding to all complaints, monitoring and evaluating protection structures, and taking personal responsibility.

Child protection:

Child protection is about preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children including sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices. It is part of the broader area of work known as Safeguarding.

PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse):

All measures that protect people from crisis affected communities from sexual exploitation and abuse by members or staff (e.g. of NGOs, the UN and other actors).

Abuse:

Any action or inaction that causes harm to another person. It can include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. It also includes abuse online and/or through mobile technology. There are various types of abuse including:

1. **Sexual abuse:** Any actual or threatened sexual act of violence perpetrated against a child or adult, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions. Examples of sexual abuse include rape, abusive sexual contact like unwanted touching and non-contact sexual abuse such as sexting and verbal or behavioral sexual harassment.
2. **Physical abuse:** The actual or likely physical injury to a child or adult, such as hitting, kicking or shaking, where there is definite knowledge, or reasonable suspicion, that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

3. **Emotional abuse:** Harm done by persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection, such as degrading punishments, threats, bullying, and not giving care and affection.
4. **Neglect:** When basic needs such as food, warmth and medical care are not met, or when there is a failure to prevent exposure to any kind of danger.

Exploitation:

Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust to profit monetarily, socially or politically. There are various types of exploitation including:

1. **Sexual Exploitation:** The actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.
2. **Child Labour:** The term “child labour” generally refers to any economic activity performed by a person under the age of 15. See it more concrete on the ILO webpage¹
3. **Trafficking:** The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of children or vulnerable adults for the purpose of exploitation such as for labor, prostitution or sexual exploitation.
4. **Survival Sex:** Occurs when a child or vulnerable adult living in poverty or in an emergency situation chooses to engage in or is coerced into sex as a last resort for survival. It is transactional sex in exchange for food, water, drugs, shelter, money and any other essential needs for integral human survival.

Suspect:

An individual, who is suspected of having abused, exploited or knowingly allowed the ill treatment of a child or vulnerable adult. Such abuse or exploitation may cause physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or other harm to an individual. Investigation would determine whether the suspect is guilty or not.

Reporter:

An individual who identifies and reports suspected incidents of abuse or exploitation of a child or vulnerable adult. All ICDS members and staff are required to report whenever a suspicion of abuse or exploitation involving ICDS members or staff or other humanitarian workers is raised, even when they may not have all the facts at hand.

1 → <http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/facts/lang--en/index.htm>