

Brave Movement Child Safeguarding Policy

Annex 4: Child Participation Risk Assessment (Based on Child Participation Risk Assessment of World Vision International)

Guidance Note: Risk Assessment for Child Participation Activities

This Child Protection Risk Assessment has been developed to help Brave Movement staff, volunteer and partners identify and mitigate risks resulting from child participation in Brave Movement activities. It is intended to help those planning and implementing these activities to consider, prepare for, and protect children from any potential physical, social, or emotional harm that may arise due to a Brave Movement sponsored child participation activity or event. This assessment should be completed prior to engaging or intending to engage in any activities, either on- or off-line, that include significant child participation, including but not limited to:

- one-time or stand-alone participatory processes such as including children in assessments, focus group discussions, evaluations, special events and mobilizations; and
- on-going child participation activities that promote children's participation and empowerment such as children's groups, clubs, forums, advocacy initiatives, or engagement in child rights issues on national/international decision-making platforms/arenas. (In this case, risk assessments should be conducted periodically throughout the course of implementation, with the frequency of assessment based on the level of risk and instability in the context.)

This assessment will be done by the organizers of the specific activities or events. It is not anticipated that the Brave Movement will review or comment on these assessments, unless asked to do so by the organizers.

This annex draws heavily on the tools developed by Brave Movement partners, particularly those of World Vision International. It will be revised and improved as the best practice of these partners evolves.

Key Principles of this Risk Assessment:

1. Risk for child participation must always be assessed in relation to context, with special attention given to fragile contexts. Children's participation may expose children to varying levels of harm at the familial, communal, and societal level, depending on context and culture. Conflict situations and non-democratic societies also increase the risk of negative consequences of children's participation.¹ The level of risk depends on the level of threat, the amount of exposure to harm in a family or community, and the capacity that people have and the actions they take to protect themselves.
2. The principle of participation (Article 12, CRC)² must be balanced with the right to life, survival and development (Article 6, CRC): There may be times when certain forms of child participation are not appropriate. It is the responsibility of Brave Movement staff, volunteers and partners to balance encouragement toward children's rights to meaningful participation with their equally important rights to life, survival, and

¹ Interagency Working Group on Children's Participation, *Children As Active Citizens: A Policy and Programme Guide: Commitments and Obligations for Children's Civil Rights and Civil Engagement in East Asia and the Pacific*, 2008, 94.

² Convention on the Rights of the Child, G.A. res. 44/25, annex, 44 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 167, U.N. Doc. A/44/49 (1989), entered into force Sept. 2 1990.

development. The extent and ways in which children can and should participate depend both on personal maturity/development as well as the realities of safety and security within a given context.³

In order to balance the principle of participation with the right to life, survival and development, the risk analysis below should be completed. Brave Movement staff, volunteers and partners must be prepared to redesign projects, make changes to participatory activities, or even terminate processes in order to reduce or eliminate risks, preferably in partnership with children.

³ Louise Searle, *Child Participation During Conflict and Crisis: An Analysis of Risk from Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo* (2010), 9.

Risk Analysis Tool for Child Participation

Programme/Project: _____ Location(s): _____

Date Risk Analysis Completed: _____ If applicable, next date for review: _____

To mitigate risks, the organizers/sponsors of a given activity or event must:

- Make careful assessment of risks associated with children’s participation in activities prior to encouraging child participation in program or community activities; and
- Assess risks in collaboration with children and their parents/caregivers; and
- Re-assess promptly if there is a significant change in the context which may increase risks for children involved in participation activities.

In high risk or volatile areas or when addressing sensitive issues, offices must undertake routine and ongoing assessments of the likely risks and consequences associated with child participation.

Please note that the Brave Movement strongly encourages the participation of children in the activities and events of its partners. This tool is not meant to discourage such participation; its aim is to ensure that partners have carefully assessed risks to children and taken all possible measures to mitigate these risks.

Section 1: Minimum Conditions for Planning Child Participation Activities

All of the following pre-conditions must be met in order to proceed with the remainder of the risk analysis. If some conditions are not met, plans for child participation activities should not proceed until conditions are met.

Directions: Please tick Yes or No if the following pre-conditions met, in the chart below. If yes, write down how the pre-conditions have been met to facilitate discussion and ensure common understanding.

	Yes	No
Local child protection threats, issues and resources have been identified		
<i>Details:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans are in place to ensure children have genuine opportunities to influence the outcome and approach of the activities		
<i>Details:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appropriate efforts have been made to include most vulnerable children in the activities		
<i>Details:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-friendly and contextually appropriate complaints mechanism exists for children to report inappropriate behaviour in the child participation activities		
<i>Details:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans are in place to help children recognize inappropriate conduct and to inform them of their reporting options		

Details:

Plans are in place to get informed consent of child participants and their caregivers

Details:

Partner organizations involved in the activities or project have policies or systems which make them safe organizations for children

Details:

Section 2: General Context Questions

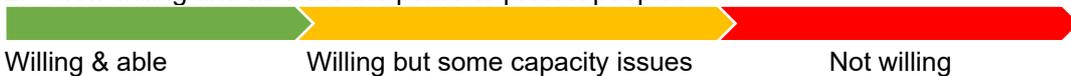
Directions: Mark your answer for each question on the colored scale.

Please note that, as stated in the first key principle for this annex, the answers to these questions will vary across contexts according to: the levels of threat; the potential for exposure to harm among individual or groups of families and communities; the capacities of people/groups to address the threats; and the actions they are able and/or willing to take to protect themselves.

1. How stable is the context?



2. How willing and able are the police to protect people?



3. How effective are systems of justice (laws, investigations & prosecutions, courts, community grievance procedures)?



4. Have there been any specific threats or incidences of violence or reprisals for people advocating for human rights, speaking out about alleged abuses, or criticizing government policy or practice that you know of or have heard about?



5. To what extent are people free and safe to express their opinions openly?



6. To what extent are children's opinions listened to and respected within the family and community?



7. To what extent are children encouraged to engage in activities not related to school, family duties, or income-generating activities?



8. How effective are local child protection mechanisms at receiving and responding to reports of child abuse, exploitation or neglect?



⁴ Ineffective systems may be due to a lack of adequate laws (e.g. against marital rape or prohibiting child marriage) or lack of capacity (e.g. lack of human and financial resources, data management processes, weak enforcement).

⁵ Examples of impunity include a lack of proper investigations, ability for alleged perpetrators to pay bribes and seek early release, corruption, malpractice and abuse, and police and courts not acting independently or strongly influenced by business, political or military actors.

Review your answers to questions 1-8 in Section 2. If any answers are colored orange or red, proceed to Section 3. If not, decide of how often you need to repeat the risk assessment (e.g. monthly).

Section 3: Risk Assessment Tool

Directions

1. Identify Potential Risks:

Use the Risk Assessment Tool below to write down all the possible negative consequences and risks that could occur if you proceed with your intended child participation activities. Think about the potential physical, social, and emotional forms of harm and distress for the children who participate, their families and Brave Movement staff, volunteers or partners. Try to be as specific as possible.

2. Rate how Likely a Risk Will Occur:

For each risk/problem you have identified, decide how likely it is to occur on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being unlikely and 5 being very likely.

3. Rate Severity of Consequences

For each risk/problem you have identified, decide how severe the consequences would be if it did occur on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being not severe and 5 being very severe.

4. Identify Risk Management Plan:

- a. Items scoring a 2-3 for either likelihood or severity: discuss and document a plan for what you will change in the design and implementation of planned activities to reduce the risk.
- b. Items scoring a 4-5 for either likelihood or severity: discuss and document a decision of whether to proceed with making changes to the activity, or whether the activity needs to be stopped as the risk is too great to proceed, even with changes.

Please Note:

A common mistake is to assume that because a particular risk has not occurred in the past, then it is either not a risk, or the risk of it occurring is low. However, the level of threat can change and circumstances can increase peoples' susceptibility to a particular threat. This is usually more likely to occur in conflict or in fragile settings where context, politics, and power dynamics are changing rapidly. This risk assessment may need to be repeated if certain circumstances occur that endanger children, their families, and their communities.

Also, remember that although children's perceptions and opinions are important, children's reports of 'feeling' safe is not the same thing as being safe or managing risks. Ideally, children should identify the potential negative consequences of their proposed activities, but Brave Movement staff, volunteers and partners also have a responsibility to raise potential risks and actively manage these, even in situations where children may not identify them or consider them important.

Risk Assessment Tool

Date:	Location:	Name of Person/s Completing this Assessment:	
Description of intended Child Participation Activities: (What do you plan to do?)			
Description of the specific objectives of the intended activities: (What outcomes do you plan to achieve)?			
Description of current context (in particular, highlight any of the orange or red issues from Section 2):			
Name of other people consulted:			
Possible Risks (to affected persons/beneficiaries, to your organization, and to other agencies/people).	Likelihood of Risk occurring (Very Likely: 5 Unlikely: 1)	Severity of Consequences (Very Severe: 5 Not severe: 1)	Risk Management Plan
Other Comments/Referral:			