



INTER-AGENCY CHILD PROTECTION DATABASE



Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and UNICEF are working together on supporting the standard inter-agency child protection database to facilitate Family Tracing and Reunification, DDR and other vulnerable children programs.

Working with separated children, children associated with armed groups and forces and other especially vulnerable children are major components of UNICEF, IRC and Save the Children's child protection programs, with family tracing and reintegration as a key element. Systems for gathering information, collating data, and monitoring are central to this work.

A number of organizations have worked together over the past ten years to promote and support standard approaches to working with separated children including standard registration forms and guidelines. Within this context, Save the Children UK and IRC have been working on developing a shared database. In addition to family tracing, the current database can be used as a case management and an information management tool to generate reports and analyses for vulnerable children such as on specific protection concerns. This includes for example, for children associated with fighting forces (CAFF), on reasons why children are recruited; a child's role within the armed group; and how, when and why they left. Such information is particularly useful for program planning, monitoring and evaluation and for our global advocacy work on child protection concerns.

Example of information tracked on separated children

How the Database Can Help your Child Protection Programs

- The inter-Agency Database is flexible and can quickly be implemented at the earliest stages of an emergency.
- The system can easily be customized to meet the countries and programs' specificities such as incorporating the different type of protection concerns vulnerable children are facing or highlighting participation in certain activities.
- The inter-agency database promotes a coordinated approach key for successful family tracing by gathering information at each critical step of family tracing and reunification from rapid registration, tracing, verification, reunification to follow-up.
- The inter-agency database promotes best practices by using standard forms and guiding principles developed by the inter-agency working group on Separated Children.
- Using a standard system already in place in multiple countries and agencies and having access to a global infrastructure for support and training will help streamline your resources for development, maintenance, support and training.
- The system will enhance your child protection activities, program planning, monitoring and evaluation by facilitating case management and data analysis. The Inter-Agency Database can:
 - Provide you quickly with lists of children that need follow up, need specific attention due to their protection concerns, etc;
 - Facilitate planning for children such as outlining reintegration packages, durable solutions or specific responses for specific protection concerns;
 - Help you evaluate changes over time and adapt your programs consequently;
 - Help you understand trends and changes in cases;
 - Provide you with critical information for your advocacy efforts.
- The inter-agency database facilitates sharing and synchronization of information between agencies and for cross border tracing.

Description of the Consortium & Project

Last December 2005, Save the Children and IRC formed an inter-agency consortium, with UNICEF on the steering committee, to coordinate the ongoing support, future developments of and training on this inter-agency system. The Save the Children and IRC Child Protection Database Consortium's overall aim is to use a standard version of the Database and to jointly co-ordinate and oversee future development and maintenance of the system that can be deployed globally to support coherent and efficient response and enable compatibility across programs and agencies working in this field. The steering committee (SC-UK, IRC and UNICEF) will oversee the usage and manage any changes required to the application. The project includes a management and administrative structure, and aims to build technical support and training capacity to ensure long-term sustainability of the application. In addition, feedback on the pilot implementations will be collated to inform decisions regarding next steps and future development of the system.

The first phase of this project took place in January and February 2006 which focused on supporting, following up and improving utility of the database in West Africa where IRC and SCUK had already or were about to implement this system. Training to both database staff and child protection workers were conducted in Ivory Coast, Liberia and Guinea as well as a review of the current system used in Sierra Leone. This first phase also included the development of standard training tools for end users.

Phase Two, currently underway, consists of learning from existing usage, building capacity where the database is currently implemented, the further roll out geographically and an expansion in the number of agencies using the database. It will include the provision and coordination of technical support and training for the implementing agencies, plus revision and further development of the database as a result of input from the field-testing. During phase 2, the training material will be revised so they are more user-friendly, sustainable and less dependent on "in person" country trainings.

Phase Three will be an opportunity to review, and evaluate the implementation and will depend on further funding.

WHERE IS THE INTER-AGENCY DATABASE CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTED?

The database is currently being used in Liberia, Ivory Coast, Guinea, North and South Sudan, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Nepal by a number of different agencies - Save the Children UK, Save the Children US, UNICEF, the International Rescue Committee, local non-governmental partners and the Indonesian Government (Ministry of Social Services/Welfare).

Field ID	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Sex	Age	Category	Sub Category	Interviewer
Yatta	-	-	-	Female	21	Separated	Refugee	
Sangai	-	-	-	Female	21	Separated	Refugee	
Falmata	-	-	-	Female	17	Unaccompanied	Refugee	
Korpu	-	-	-	Female	18	Unaccompanied	Refugee	
Veriama	-	-	-	Female	17	Separated	Refugee	
Yojama	Momoh	-	-	Female	17	Unaccompanied	Refugee	
Veriame	-	-	-	Female	15	Unaccompanied	Refugee	
Vanwolar	-	-	-	Female	20	Separated	Refugee	
Kumba	Satta	-	-	Male	20	Separated	Refugee	
Sia	Mamie	-	-	Female	17	Unaccompanied	Refugee	
Fetu	-	-	-	Female	20	Separated	Refugee	
Falmata	-	-	-	Female	17	Unaccompanied	Refugee	
Meriam	-	-	-	Female	20	Separated	Refugee	
Ya-Hummu	-	-	-	Female	16	Unaccompanied	Refugee	
Watta	-	-	-	Female	20	Unaccompanied	Refugee	
Kpana	-	-	-	Female	19	Separated	Refugee	

Example of Protection Concerns Reports that can provide you with quick access to list of children that need specific attention

To Learn More on the Inter Agency Child Protection Database

Please Contact the Following Focal Points:

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