

What is child safeguarding?

Child safeguarding is the responsibility organisations have to make sure their staff, operations, and programmes do no harm to children. This ensures they do not expose children to risk of harm and abuse and any concerns about children's safety are reported to the appropriate authorities.

Who are Keeping Children Safe?

Keeping Children Safe's mission is to ensure children everywhere are safe from harm. We set out internationally recognised child safeguarding standards so all organisations working directly for and with children have comprehensive safeguarding measures in place. Our independence means that our standards and advice are not influenced by any other organisation or government.

What are the guiding principles?

- All children have equal rights to protection from harm.
- Everybody has a responsibility to support the protection of children.
- Organisations have a duty of care to children with whom they work, are in contact with, or who are affected by their work and operations.
- If organisations work with partners they have a responsibility to help partners meet the minimum requirements on protection.
- All actions on child safeguarding are taken in the best interests of the child, which are paramount.

What are the Standards?

Standard 1 Policy - The organisation develops a policy that describes how it is committed to preventing and responding appropriately to harm to children. The policy reflects the rights of children to protection from abuse and exploitation as outlined in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

- The policy is approved by the organisation's management body and applies to all the organisation's staff and associates.
- The policy is publicised in an appropriate manner, promoted and distributed widely.
- Managers have specific responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the policy.

Standard 2 People - The organisation places clear responsibilities and expectations on its staff and associates and supports them to understand and act in line with these Key staff are designated at different levels (including director level) as “focal points” with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

- Recruitment processes have strong child safeguarding measures in place.
- There are written guidelines for appropriate and inappropriate behaviour of adults towards children and of children towards other children.
- There are guidelines for engaging partners, communities and children on child safeguarding.

Standard 3 Procedures - The organisation creates a child safe environment through implementing child safeguarding procedures that are applied across the organisation. Organisations carry out local mapping exercises which provide information on the legal, social welfare and child protection arrangements.

- Child safeguarding risk assessments and mitigation strategies are incorporated into existing risk assessment processes at all levels.
- Child safeguarding measures are integrated with existing processes and systems (strategic planning, budgeting, recruitment, programme cycle management, performance management, procurement, partner agreements and management systems etc.).
- A reporting and responding process for incidents and concerns is developed which is locally appropriate.

Standard 4 Accountability - The organisation monitors and reviews its safeguarding measures .

- Implementation of child safeguarding policies and procedures is regularly monitored.
- Progress, performance and lessons learnt are reported to key stakeholders (management forums and external or independent bodies where relevant) and included in organisations’ annual reports.
- Learning from practical case experience informs policy review and changes to child safeguarding measures.
- Policies and practices are reviewed at regular intervals and formally evaluated by an external evaluator/auditor every three years.