



Standard Operations South Sudan

Symptoms, assessment questions & referral options per case

Version: December 2019



PHYSICAL ABUSE

Symptoms



- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (Threat to) injury | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs of dangerous and reckless behavior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor explanation of the cause of injuries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fracture | <input type="checkbox"/> Harmful traditional practices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bruises | <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional marks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bites | <input type="checkbox"/> Removal of teeth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wounds / burns | <input type="checkbox"/> Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crying | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (Excessive) corporate punishment | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child is self-harming | |



Assessment questions

- Is the child's life at risk?
- Need for immediate medical services?
- Under whose care is the child?
- Is the abuse within the family?
- What is the attitude/involvement of the caregiver?
- What has the psychosocial impact been on the child?
- What is the severity, location, frequency and risk of the abuse and potentially further abuse?
- Are other children at risk as well?



SEXUAL ABUSE

Symptoms



- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual contact between a child and an adult | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual transmitted diseases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A young child with a lot of knowledge in sexual issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulties with emotions (sad, overly affectionate, shy, crying, depressed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexualized behaviour of a young child | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of trust / withdrawn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding | <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of certain people / physical intimacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pain when sitting down and standing up | <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of closed doors / bathing/ the dark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early pregnancy | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs of panic |



Assessment questions

- Is the child's life at risk?
- Need for immediate medical services?
- Under whose care is the child?
- Is the abuse within the family or has it a strong family network who should be involved for support?
- What is the attitude/involvement of the caregiver?
- What has the psychosocial impact been on the child?
- What is the severity, location, frequency and risk of the abuse and potentially further abuse?
- Are other children at risk as well?

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Ensure safety and security. If the child is not safe at home, link with an organization searching for alternative care arrangements.
- ✓ Parental guidance, if appropriate and wanted by the parents.
- ✓ Ensure a way for the child to contact the caseworker in the event of an emergency or in further needs. Provide phone and emergency numbers.
- ✓ Do ongoing child safety assessments in the family and wider circle of the child.
- ✓ If appropriate, arrange accommodation, cash assistance, or transport to a safe location.
- ✓ Awareness raising on the consequence of harmful traditional practices.
- ✓ Follow up with home visits and family counselling.
- ✓ What's up Children
- ✓ What's Up Ladies
- ✓ Build your own Buddy



Linking possibilities

- An organisation working on safe alternative accommodation.
- Health services
- Psychosocial support
- Counselling for the parents/teachers/school staff on the negative impact of physical harm against the child
- Legal counselling and assistance in case the child wants to file a complaint.
- Link with a social worker, community facilitator or someone of the Child Protection Committee
- Someone working in Child Protection

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Ensure safety and security. If the child is not safe at home, link with an organization searching for alternative care arrangements.
- ✓ Parental guidance, if appropriate and wanted by the parents.
- ✓ Ensure a way for the child to contact the caseworker in the event of an emergency or in further needs. Provide phone and emergency numbers.
- ✓ Do ongoing child safety assessments in the family and wider circle of the child.
- ✓ If appropriate, arrange accommodation, cash assistance, or transport to a safe location.
- ✓ Awareness raising on the consequence of harmful traditional practices.
- ✓ Follow up with home visits and family counselling.
- ✓ What's up Children
- ✓ What's Up Ladies
- ✓ Build your own Buddy



Linking possibilities

- Medical services. Accompany the child and family with their consent.
- Police or other legal service, if the child/parents want to report.
- Psychological care
- An organization searching for alternative care arrangements.
- Link with a social worker, community facilitator or someone of the Child Protection Committee
- Someone working in Child Protection



CHILD LABOR

Symptoms



- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (Threat to) send a child to work | <input type="checkbox"/> Involved in commercial sexual relationship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tired or ill | <input type="checkbox"/> Over worked / heavy work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missing classes or not going to school at all | <input type="checkbox"/> Working at school or sleep hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Malnourished | <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently falling sick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depressed | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical weakness | |



Assessment questions

- Under whose care is the child?
- Is the abuse within the family?
- What is the attitude/involvement of the caregiver?
- What is the situation of the family?
- Does the child work with close family members?
- What is the severity, location, frequency and risk of the abuse and potentially further abuse?
- Is the child being forced to work?
- Is the child regularly attending school?
- Is the child being exploited by the employer?
- Are other kids at risk as well?



CHILD NEGLECT

Symptoms



- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor personal hygiene | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of supervision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tired | <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate basic care and lack of protection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Child often left to look after him- or herself. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Untreated medical problems, injury or illness | <input type="checkbox"/> Child is doing tasks beyond his /her age |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Malnutrition | <input type="checkbox"/> Caregivers who are emotionally distant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stealing / hiding food | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Few social relationships | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scavenging | |



Assessment questions

- Is the child's life at risk?
- Need for immediate medical services?
- Under whose care is the child?
- Is there a strong family network who should be involved for support?
- What is the attitude/involvement of the caregiver?
- What has the psychosocial impact of the situation been on the child?
- What is the severity, location, frequency and risk of the neglect and potentially further abuse?
- Are other children at risk as well?

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Ensure safety and security
- ✓ Discuss with the child and his/her family whether it is possible to disengage the child from working.
- ✓ If above is not possible, focus on working conditions of the child (think of risks, working hours, kind of work etc.)
- ✓ Counsel on the rights of children, labour law and the risks of working.
- ✓ Do ongoing child safety assessments in the family and wider circle of the child, and take action when a child needs protection
- ✓ Follow up with home visits and family counselling
- ✓ What's Up Children
- ✓ Build your own Buddy



Linking possibilities

- Educational services
- Link with a social worker, community facilitator or someone of the Child Protection Committee
- Someone working in Child Protection
- Inform a special police protection unit.

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Ensure safety and security. needs protection
- ✓ Parental guidance, if appropriate and wanted by the parents.
- ✓ Do ongoing child safety assessments in the family and wider circle of the child, and take action when a child
- ✓ Follow up with home visits and family counselling
- ✓ What's Up Children
- ✓ What's Up Ladies
- ✓ Build your own Buddy



Linking possibilities

- Health services
- Psychosocial support
- Counselling for the parents/teachers/school staff on the negative impact of physical harm against the child
- Educational services
- Link with a social worker, community facilitator or someone of the Child Protection Committee
- Someone working in Child Protection
- Inform a special police protection unit.
- Engagement of community leaders



EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Symptoms



- ☐ Humiliation, belittlement, isolation by a significant carer
- ☐ Child is treated differently than other siblings
- ☐ Significant carer is negative towards a child
- ☐ Witnesses domestic violence
- ☐ Showing emotional distress: withdrawn or aggressive
- ☐ Child is being threatened
- ☐ Difficulties in learning and socializing
- ☐ Slow mental and/or emotional development
- ☐ Sudden speech disorders
- ☐ Overreaction to mistakes
- ☐ Extreme fear of new situation
- ☐ Attention seeking behavior
- ☐ Loss of appetite
- ☐ Low self-esteem



Assessment questions

- Is the child's life at risk?
- Need for immediate medical services?
- Under whose care is the child?
- Is the abuse within the family?
- Is there a family network that can be involved for support?
- What is the attitude/involvement of the caregiver?
- What has the psychosocial impact been on the child? Does the child have social interaction with his peer groups?
- What is the severity, location, frequency and risk of the abuse and potentially further abuse?
- Are other children at risk as well?



(UPCOMING) CHILD MARRIAGE

Symptoms



- ☐ A child who is married
- ☐ Dropping out of school
- ☐ Child is abruptly missing
- ☐ Depressed
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Anxious, nervous
- ☐ Also see case 'sexual abuse'



Assessment questions

- How old is the child?
- Was the marriage forced? By whom, and when?
- How is the girl mentally and physically doing?
- Also see case 'Sexual abuse'

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Ensure safety and security.
- ✓ Parental guidance, if appropriate and wanted by the parents.
- ✓ Do ongoing child safety assessments in the family and wider circle of the child, and take action when a child needs protection
- ✓ Follow up with home visits and family counselling
- ✓ What's Up Children
- ✓ What's Up Ladies
- ✓ Building your own Buddy
- ✓ What's Up Parents
- ✓ What's Up People



Linking possibilities

- Health services
- Psychosocial support
- Counselling for the parents/teachers/school staff on the negative impact of physical harm against the child
- Educational services
- Link with a social worker, community facilitator or someone of the Child Protection Committee
- Someone working in Child Protection

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Look at the case: 'Sexual abuse'



Linking possibilities

- Look at the case: "Sexual abuse"



PREGNANCY / CARE FOR A CHILD

Symptoms



- ☐ Visible signs of pregnancy
- ☐ Fatigue / exhausted
- ☐ A girl carrying a baby and baby supplies



Assessment questions

- How old is the girl?
- What was the cause of pregnancy?
Rape, sexual exploitation...? Relationship at a young age?
- How is her capacity for self-protection?
- How is her mental state?
- Does she receive support from the father, her family and/or the community?
- What is the health status of the baby?



ECONOMIC ABUSE

Symptoms



- ☐ Denial to economic opportunity and/or inheritance of property



Assessment questions

- What is the attitude/involvement of the caregiver?
- Are other children at risk as well?

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Look at the case 'Sexual abuse'



Linking possibilities

- Look at the case 'Sexual abuse'
- Service providers for mother and child care

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Link with a social worker, community facilitator or someone of the Child Protection Committee
- ✓ Link to someone working in Child Protection



Linking possibilities

- Legal counselling and assistance in case the child wants to file a complaint.



RELATED TO ARMED GROUPS

Symptoms



- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child talking about former traumatic events | <input type="checkbox"/> Anxious without saying why |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty with reintegration | <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling hopeless |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nightmares | <input type="checkbox"/> Re-experiencing the past |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flat emotions | <input type="checkbox"/> Flinching at a sudden sound |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tics | <input type="checkbox"/> 'status' in the armed forces versus 'nothing' back home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unusual behavior | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not joining in activities | |



Assessment questions

- Is the child's life at risk?
- Is the child/family accessing support and currently in a safe environment?
- What has the psychosocial impact been on the child? Does the child have social interaction with his peer groups?
- How is the reception of the child back at home?
- Stigmatization?
- Are other children at risk as well?



MENTAL DISTRESS

Symptoms



- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The child has attempted suicide | <input type="checkbox"/> Use of alcohol/drugs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal thoughts / tendencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent minded/withdrawn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marks of self-harming | <input type="checkbox"/> Crying/sad/fearful/anxious/angry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child states that he/she hurts him/her self | <input type="checkbox"/> Depressed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Risky behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> Nightmares, sleeping issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Badly communicating | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulties in social relationships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intense violent behavior: breaking things, kicking, throwing | <input type="checkbox"/> Disobeying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Problems at school | <input type="checkbox"/> Compulsive actions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient self-care | <input type="checkbox"/> Screamings |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating problems |



Assessment questions

- Is the child at risk? Determine the immediate level of risk, and refer as soon as possible to psychological support.
- Is the care-taker coping and supporting the child in a good manner?
- Are other children at risk as well?

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Ensure safety and security
- ✓ Do ongoing child safety assessments in the family and wider circle of the child, and take action when a child needs protection
- ✓ Follow up with home visits and family counselling.
- ✓ What's Up Children
- ✓ What's Up Ladies
- ✓ Building your own Buddy



Linking possibilities

- Psychosocial support
- Counselling for the parents/ teachers/school staff for family mediation.
- Educational services
- Link with a social worker, community facilitator or someone of the Child Protection Committee
- Someone working in Child Protection

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Ensure safety and security.
- ✓ Parental guidance, if appropriate and wanted by the parents.
- ✓ Do ongoing child safety assessments in the family and wider circle of the child, and take action when a child needs protection
- ✓ Follow up with home visits and family counselling.
- ✓ What's Up Children
- ✓ What's Up Ladies
- ✓ Building your own Buddy



Linking possibilities

- Psychosocial support with the capacity to work with people with severe mental disorders.
- Someone working in Child Protection



DISABILITY /ILLNESS

Symptoms



- ☐ A child has visual impairment
- ☐ A child seems not to understand certain issues/dangers/what is happening/what is being said.
- ☐ The use of a wheelchair or other aids.
- ☐ Signs of stigma around a child
- ☐ Physical treats
- ☐ Severe mood changes
- ☐ Intense feelings
- ☐ Behaviour changes
- ☐ Difficulty with concentrating
- ☐ Physical harm: look at the case "A child who does self-harming or is suicidal – psychosocial distress"



Assessment questions

- In case of chronic illness, are the parents having sufficient support and the necessary medications/health care?
- Is the child/family accessing the support they need?
- What is the attitude/involvement of the caregiver?



UNACCOMPANIED CHILD

Symptoms



- ☐ Children whose parents/family is not around or alive
- ☐ Look at case 'Neglect'



Assessment questions

- Is the child's life at risk?
- Need for immediate medical services?
- What has the psychosocial impact been on the child?
- Is there still a care-taker alive? If so, is this person aware of where the child is located?
- Have efforts been made to contact parents/family?
- Is the child willing to be reunited? And is it known whether the care-taker wants the same?
- Where does the child currently reside? Is it safe to go home?
- Are other children at risk as well?

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Ensure safety and security.
- ✓ Parental guidance, if appropriate and wanted by the parents.
- ✓ Do ongoing child safety assessments in the family and wider circle of the child, and take action when a child needs protection
- ✓ Follow up with home visits and family counselling.
- ✓ What's Up Children
- ✓ What's Up Ladies
- ✓ Building your own Buddy



Linking possibilities

- Health services
- Psychosocial support
- Counselling for the parents on disability inclusion
- Link with a social worker, community facilitator or someone of the Child Protection Committee
- Someone working in Child Protection

Actions within Help a Child



- ✓ Ensure safety and security.
- ✓ Do ongoing child safety assessments in the family and wider circle of the child, and take action when a child needs protection
- ✓ Follow up with home visits and family counselling.
- ✓ What's Up Children
- ✓ What's Up Ladies
- ✓ Building your own Buddy



Linking possibilities

- An organisation doing family reunification.
- An organisation working on safe alternative accommodation.
- Health services
- Psychosocial support
- Counselling for the parents on disability inclusion
- Link with a social worker, community facilitator or someone of the Child Protection Committee
- Someone working in Child Protection

