

## National Child Protection Index (CPI) Concept June 2013

### **ChildPact**

ChildPact is a Regional Coalition for Child Protection in the Wider Black Sea Area. Established at the 4th gathering of the Black Sea NGO Forum in 2011, ChildPact is a coalition of coalitions: its members are national networks of child-focused NGOs from 10 countries in the Wider Black Sea Area (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, and Serbia) with a current representational base of more than 600+ NGOs.

ChildPact represents the interests of the most vulnerable children in the Wider Black Sea Area in policy debates at national, regional and international levels with a vision that: 'Children in the Wider Black Sea Region should have their rights guaranteed and live in a society that not only protects them, but actively supports their development to the highest levels of their potential, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender or social background. For the Wider Black Sea Region to become a prosperous area, children must be considered the region's most important resource.'

To help achieve this vision, ChildPact's four objectives are to:

1. Strengthen the role and capacity of civil society organisations in defining and monitoring child-related public policies in the Wider Black Sea Region, by supporting their contributions to policy cycles and dialogues at domestic and international (in particular EU) levels, based on child participation principles;
2. Promote an enabling environment for civil society coalitions at regional and national levels, by building national-level capacities and advocating for sustainable funding mechanisms for such entities.
3. Raise public awareness of child rights and protection issues in the national and regional contexts and advocate for regional cooperation in identifying solutions to common threats to children's well-being.
4. Strengthen connections between national coalitions and promote regional cooperation initiatives to advocate for vulnerable children.

For more information about ChildPact, please visit our website: [www.childpact.org](http://www.childpact.org)

### **Meeting ChildPact Objectives: The Child Protection Index**

As one way to work towards the above objectives, ChildPact and its members plan to build annual national level child protection indices in each of ChildPact's member countries. The index will measure each country's child protection structure in accordance with the UNCRC's rights based approach to child protection and principles associated with UNICEF's systems approach to child protection. Results from each national level index will verify each state's commitment to child protection through the lens of policy, implementation, actual service

delivery, capacity, accountability and coordination. Because each index will use a common framework of indicators, data collection methods and interpretative analysis, each national level index will be comparable across the region.

The indices will provide a region-wide monitoring agenda with a common framework to anchor policy debates, verify needs and gaps in protection systems, create cross-national comparisons for advocacy and funding purposes, push for new efforts on data population, unify various sectors and actors (governmental and non-governmental, academic and international) under shared principles and increased collaboration, and ultimately offer incentives and answers for qualitative and quantitative growth in child protection systems.

This concept is also inspired by the success of similar indices in the economic and social fields. For example, within the same region, the European Integration Index in Eastern Partnership Countries provides a picture of reform and the impact of such reforms. Prepared by the International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) in partnership with the Open Society Foundation (OSF) and experts from think tanks and universities in EaP countries and the EU, the index attempts to bolster existing EU monitoring efforts by offering independent analysis on reform efforts. The Index is in line with the EU's "more for more" approach. It shows where each EaP country stands in terms of reforms and its relationship with the EU. The Index points to those reform areas in each country where more progress is needed and serves as a reference point for civil society organizations in the EaP region that want to advocate for policy change.<sup>1</sup>

## **Beginning Steps towards the CPI**

Steps forward include:

- 1. Literature Review and Formulation of Preliminary Indicators/Framework** (and Core Outcomes & Domains). ChildPact has completed a first round literature review that provides a baseline of similar projects and lessons from across the globe. At the same time, ChildPact has worked to connect with key child protection experts from organizations such as UNICEF, USAID and World Vision to gain insights and feedback on the framework;
- 2. Consultation and Refinement of Indicators.** ChildPact's members must work through national level consultation processes to choose and refine indicators. Indicators must be reviewed for suitability and relevance in each context. The process of consultation begins this summer (July 2013);
- 3. Identifying Existing Data Sources for Population (and gaps for further data collection).** Data sources must be "glued" together for successful population of data.
- 4. Review Mechanisms of Information Sharing and Collation (Existing and Needed).** Questions on how the data will be collected, shared and analyzed using existing mechanisms will be answered. Once further needs are determined, strategies for data collection (short term and long term strategies) will be devised – this includes reliance upon technology platforms that harness ChildPact's large geographic field presence. Long-term strategies will include advocacy directed at government for reliable and recurrent data on child protection.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.eap-index.eu/index2>

5. **Review & Refine Overall Index Template, given data gaps and strategies for data collection.** Gaps by context and country and relevance by context and country will be difficult to overcome in generating a template for the Wider Black Sea Region. A process of refinement and hard choices will be necessary to reach agreement.
6. **Derive Data Visualization Platform.** ChildPact seeks to use the rich field of data visualization to make the index accessible to policy makers, civil society, donors and even local communities. In the past, data visualizations (and info graphics) have been difficult for external users to understand without a detailed explanation. However, there are new trends for large amounts of data to be displayed easily on websites, with scroll over access and more “in depth” analysis, should the viewer seek to engage, that could make this index a valuable tool for decision makers and citizens at all levels. Successful visualization comes from the marriage of design and data.
7. **Piloting Index Template.** ChildPact will pilot implementation of data collection, analysis, and visualization in one national setting as a means to tweak or generate significant changes to the framework or implementation steps based on successes and failures.

### **ChildPact’s Assets & Resources**

ChildPact’s representation over ten countries with access to over 600 organizations is an important asset to overcome the formidable challenges that the CPI demands. Efforts towards data population and a wide-acceptance of the tasks required to generate a CPI will demand advocacy engagement towards many different stakeholders, the most important being government.

The CPI “project” also demands willing and able child protection experts from every country involved. Again, this is a resource at ChildPact’s disposal.

ChildPact also has the ability to gain allies and partners from various sectors and technical backgrounds. Members of ChildPact are already engaged in partnerships internationally and nationally that will benefit the process and outcome of this project. What is needed is to harness these relationships for the greater project. ChildPact also has a dedicated governance board and general secretary.

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