

Survivor-centered considerations for working with children



IASC and CEB Meeting of Investigatory Bodies
on Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
Geneva, 26 November 2018

STRUCTURE OF THE SESSION

1

Child rights especially relevant to investigations involving children

2

Do no Harm

3

Access to information

4

Access to remedy and reparation.

Emotional support to the child throughout the process

Issue:

- Children not being emotionally supported at investigative interviews.

Actions implemented and proposed:

- Support person present at investigative interviews with children
- Guidance note on the role of the support person
- Have one support person assigned to the child throughout the whole process.

Avoiding multiple interviews

Issues:

- The child may tell his/her story multiple times.
- Poor capacity of local social workers to document and store information on cases.

Action implemented and proposed:

- Training of assistance providers on how to facilitate and not interfere with investigations.

Access to information on the investigation process

Issue:

- Lack of understanding by survivors and assistance providers of the investigation process.

Action implemented and proposed:

- Inform assistance providers – Informative session and leaflet.

• **Access to information on outcomes and follow up to the investigation**

Issues:

- Poor information to survivors on the status and outcomes of investigations AND on the process after the investigation.
- Need to speak with one voice to survivors and coordinate interventions.

Actions implemented and proposed:

- Agreed procedure to notify the (child) survivors on the outcomes of investigations.
- Set up a coordinated case review system.

Access to legal aid

Issue:

- Lack of access to adequate legal aid, particularly where foreign jurisdictions are involved.

Action proposed:

- Consultation with legal aid organizations/experts on possible system/ways for effective legal assistance.

KEY CHILD RIGHTS PROVISIONS IN RELATION TO SEA INVESTIGATIONS

- **The principle of the Best Interests of the Child**
Art. 3 of the CRC.
- **The child's right to be heard**
Art. 12 of the CRC.