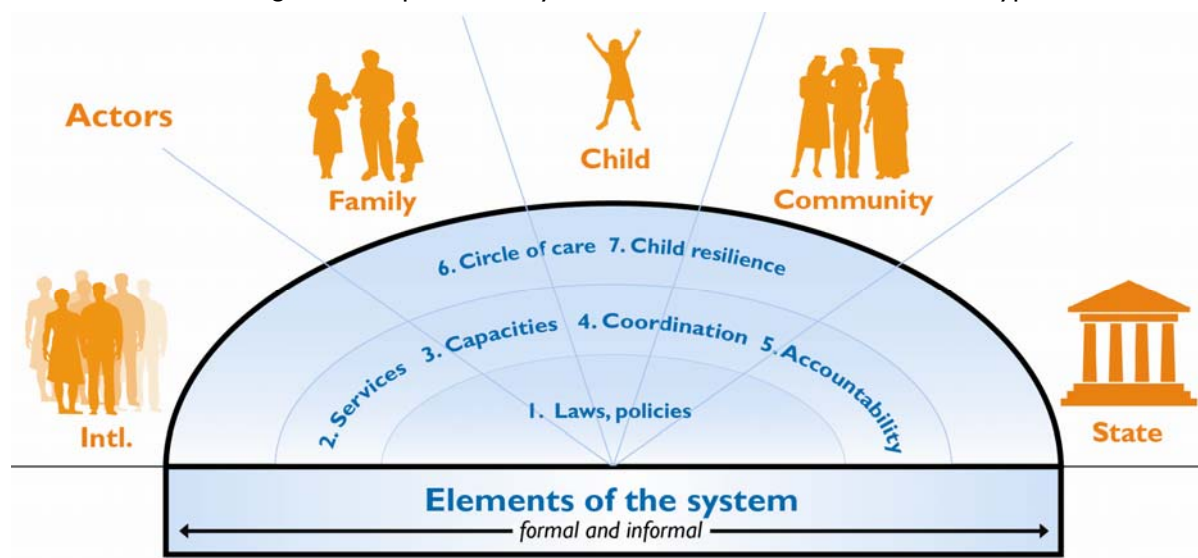


Appendix C – Child protection system¹

World Vision's (WV) definition of a child protection system is a set of coordinated formal and informal elements working together to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of violence against children. Our understanding of a child protection system includes seven elements and five types of actors.



The seven elements of a child protection system are listed below. For most elements, both informal and formal examples can be found which strengthen the protective environment around children.

1. **Laws, policies, standards and regulations** which determine the system's structures, mandates and functions.
2. **Services and service delivery mechanisms** which provide protection for children.
3. **Capacities** to provide and perform child protection services, including capacity building, human and financial resources, and adequate facilities.
4. **Co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration mechanisms** which ensure that all elements of the systems, formal and informal, across different sectors and levels (global, national & local) work in a holistic and coordinated manner to ensure protection of children.
5. **Accountability mechanisms** which ensure the system responds effectively to key child protection concerns, and functions according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), relevant laws and in the best interest of the child.
6. **Circle of care** which includes attitudes, values, behaviours and traditional practices; and a caring, supportive and protective immediate social environment.
7. **Children's resilience, life skills and participation** which encourages children to contribute to their own protection and that of others.

The five types of actors who build and implement the elements of the child protection system are:

1. **The Child:** Children's innate skills of self-protection, plus their growing capacities to manage themselves and their environment means that they are able not only to protect themselves but other children as well. Life skills and spiritual development can build children's capacity to make good decisions, influence their environment positively, and build resilience to difficult situations.
2. **Family:** The family often plays the most influential role in the quality of care and protection that each child receives. The role of the family is determined through the knowledge, attitudes, capacity and beliefs of each family related to the care and protection of children.
3. **Community:** People in the child's community who have a role to play in their protection. This includes neighbours, peers, mentors and friends. It also includes formal mechanisms which are operational at the community level, such as police, teachers or health workers. This type of actor also includes civil society, local businesses, traditional leaders, and elders – all of which can play a critical role in promoting and ensuring the protection of children.
4. **State:** People who are mandated by the government or the Convention on the Rights of the Child with child protection responsibilities. State actors are at all levels, from local to international.
5. **International Structures and Actors:** Bodies and individuals that support the implementation of children's rights to protection.

¹ Review 'A Systems Approach to Child Protection: a WV Discussion Paper'.