

Social Science for Community Engagement in Humanitarian Action (SS4CE in HA)

Briefing Note

Background and Purpose

From October 2020 to December 2022, with support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, UNICEF will be implementing the Social Science for Community Engagement in Humanitarian Action (SS4CE in HA) Project. The overall goal of this project is to strengthen global and regional demand and capacity for social science integration into humanitarian programming to ensure engagement of affected and at-risk communities throughout the humanitarian programme cycle, and to respond adaptively, rapidly, effectively and efficiently to humanitarian emergencies.

Project Objectives

1. Improve UNICEF's and partners leadership in social science data collection and analysis for Community Engagement (CE) in Humanitarian Action
2. Identify opportunities to expand and adapt social science contributions to CE and to Accountability to Affected People (AAP) in humanitarian action, and avail global goods that can be operationalised by partners across the humanitarian action platforms integrating CE interventions.
3. Position the uptake and use of social data for CE interventions in humanitarian action.

Phases and Timeline

Phase I: The Launch Phase (Oct 2020-Dec 2020)

UNICEF Social Behavior Change (SBC) conducted scoping exercises and identified key stakeholders. Engaged in needs assessment in consultation to identify the needs, demands, and case use scenarios for social science global goods in humanitarian aid.

Phase II: Discovery and Consultation (Jan 2021- June 2021)

UNICEF SBC conducted consultations, including a survey among partners with key humanitarian, government and academic stakeholders to identify the key Global Goods and advocate for global investments in SS4CE in HA.

Phase III: Project Governance: Global Goods Development, Review, Feedback and Dissemination for Implementation (July 2021-December 2022)

During the second half of 2021, UNICEF formulated the approach to the development of the global goods. Based on the scope of the project and the interests expressed by stakeholders to contribute to this process, technical working groups were formulated to reflect relevant expertise, capacity, and interests in the development of the global goods. The governance structure of this initiative includes:

- a *Strategic Advisory Group* (SAG for SS4CE in HA) to act as an advisory body to inform the project's direction as well as to provide strategic guidance to advance SS4CE in humanitarian programming. Specific emphasis to provide recommendations and guidance that facilitate participation of affected people's (CE) throughout all stages of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle in different humanitarian contexts (from preparedness to responding adaptively, rapidly, and accurately during humanitarian emergencies).
- three (3) *Technical Working Groups (TWGs)* to advise and contribute to the development of the SS4CE in HA identified Global Goods.

Composition details of the three TWGs linked to the development of the identified Global Goods:

| TWGs | SS4CE Global Goods-No. | Details |
|--|------------------------|--|
| 1: Data Ethics, Data sharing and Code of conduct | Global Good 2 | Common principles regarding social science ethics and data sharing in humanitarian contexts, inclusive of operations, operational research, and academic research |
| | Global Good 5 | Code of conduct for social scientists working on CE in humanitarian contexts |
| 2. SS4CE Capacity Development | Global good 3 and 4 | SS4CE Capacity Mapping in humanitarian action (conflicts and natural hazards) to inform the expansion of capacity development global goods <i>NB: Global Good 3 (CE training packages for frontline workers) and Global Good 4 (Training modules for humanitarian practitioners on using social science to strengthen CE)</i> |
| 3.CE Data Systems, tools, and guides | Global good 1 | CE Data systems, tools (including evaluation) and guides |

During this core implementation phase, UNICEF SBC will focus its resources on working specifically with the TWGs and SAG, whose members represent different humanitarian, academic and civil society organizations to develop, revise and introduce the identified Global Goods in the humanitarian architecture.

Partners

Analytics for Operations Working Group (AFO), Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC), Common Service for Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS), COVID-19 RCCE Collective Service, Geneva Center for Humanitarian Studies, GOARN Research, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX), IASC/Results Group 2, International Federation of Red Cross/Crescent (IFRC), International Communication Association (ICA), International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), M&D Associates, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), OECD, READY Initiative, Save the Children, Sonar-Global, Sphere, Social Science in Humanitarian Action platform (SSHAP), UN OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF Data Analytics Planning and Monitoring (DAPM), UNICEF Innocenti, UNICEF Office of Emergency Programs (EMOPS), UNICEF Program Division, UNICEF Public Health Emergencies (PHE), US/EU/AFRO Centres for Disease Control, Wellcome Trust, World Bank, WHO Behavioural Insights Unit, WHO Health Governance Unit, WHO R&D Blueprint, WHO Social Science Working Group. Additional academic partners and networks TBD.