CHILD RIGHTS, CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING

Introduction

This course introduces participants to the principles, standards and practical approaches for promoting child rights, strengthening child protection and establishing effective safeguarding systems within institutions and development programmes. Children require particular protection because of their age, dependency and vulnerability to abuse, exploitation, neglect, violence, discrimination and other forms of harm. Organisations working with or around children therefore have a responsibility to create safe environments and ensure that children's rights, dignity, participation and wellbeing are protected. The programme provides a comprehensive framework for understanding international child-rights principles, child-protection risks, safeguarding responsibilities and institutional mechanisms for preventing, identifying and responding to concerns involving children. Participants will examine how child protection can be integrated into organizational policies, programmes, workplaces, schools, communities and service-delivery systems. Particular attention is given to risk identification, prevention and safeguarding, codes of conduct, safe recruitment, reporting and complaints mechanisms, referral pathways, case-management principles, confidentiality, child participation and institutional accountability. Participants will also explore practical approaches for strengthening coordination between government agencies, civil society, humanitarian organisations, service providers and communities.

Course Objectives

- Understand fundamental child-rights principles.
- Identify child-protection risks.
- Recognize safeguarding responsibilities.
- Strengthen institutional safeguarding systems.
- Establish appropriate reporting mechanisms.

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- Improve referral and response procedures.
- Promote child-safe organizational cultures.
- Develop safeguarding action plans

Course Modules

> Module 1: Foundations of Child Rights
- Concept of child rights
- Principles of child rights
- Child dignity and participation
- Rights-based child protection

> Module 2: International Child Rights Framework
- International child-rights standards
- State responsibilities
- Institutional obligations
- National implementation

> Module 3: Child Protection Risks
- Abuse
- Neglect
- Exploitation
- Violence

> Module 4: Safeguarding
- Safeguarding principles
- Institutional safeguarding
- Prevention
- Safeguarding culture

> Module 5: Identifying and Reporting Concerns
- Recognizing concerns
- Reporting responsibilities
- Confidentiality
- Escalation procedures

> Module 6: Referral and Response

- Referral pathways
- Case management
- Inter-agency coordination
- Follow-up and support

> Module 7: Child-Safe Organisations
- Recruitment safeguards
- Codes of conduct
- Organizational policies
- Staff responsibilities

> Module 8: Child Participation
- Children's voices
- Meaningful participation
- Safe consultation
- Child-centered decision-making

> Module 9: Monitoring and Accountability
- 1. Safeguarding indicators
- 2. Incident monitoring
- 3. Accountability systems
- 4. Safeguarding audits

> Module 10: Child Protection Strategy
- 1. Institutional assessment
- 2. Protection priorities
- 3. Implementation framework
- 4. Safeguarding action plan

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