



Enhancing Government Capacity to Assess, Address, and Monitor Child Protection and Care

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Background and Purpose

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works in countries around the world to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable children, in keeping with the three objectives established in the U.S. government strategy for Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity (APCCA). Those objectives are to build strong beginnings, put family first, and protect children from violence (<https://www.childreninadversity.gov>).

The term “children in adversity” includes “boys and girls who are experiencing conditions of serious deprivation and danger,”¹ such as the most-vulnerable newborns and young children; children who are—or are at risk of—living outside of family care; and children who need protection and responsive care because of violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect. In support of country priorities and in line with APCCA objectives, USAID-funded activities help partner countries on their [journey to self-reliance](#). These activities help governments build and strengthen their capacities to support, manage, and finance child protection and care systems using the best available data for decision making and employing research, implementation science, and programmatic learning to design evidence-based and evidence-informed policies, programs, and practices.

USAID's Center for Children in Adversity has engaged the USAID-funded [Data for Impact \(D4I\)](#) project to build on and reinforce current U.S. government efforts to help countries generate and use high-quality data as evidence that can improve programs, policies, and outcomes. D4I aims to strengthen the capacity of government partners to collect, analyze, and use data to support their move to self-reliance. To this end, the project team uses a learning-centered approach when implementing the following activities:

- Provide leadership in implementing a structured assessment of national protection and care systems and strategies, using a standard framework or tool to support countries as they assess, address, and monitor the reform of national care systems.
- Identify gaps and continuing needs in reforming child protection and care
- Establish monitoring indicators (including indicator reference sheets and data collection and aggregation forms) and put in place systems for regular assessment of progress and monitoring of results against country plans for protection and care reform
- Institutionalize data review processes and tools to support the development of a data use culture in the country
- Assess case management information systems, or develop them if they are lacking, and support their interoperability and capacity to generate reliable, aggregated data and indicators for use in planning and reform initiatives and for decision making. Also, facilitate case management, streamline coordination among actors, track information longitudinally, and improve individual case management.

Activity Implementation

At the country level, D4I will work with the USAID mission, government partners, and stakeholders to further develop and strengthen country leadership in assessing and ultimately accelerating national protection and care reform. D4I will work through in-country expert consultants to provide ongoing support to government partners and stakeholders. The U.S.-based D4I team will also make regular visits to countries to provide technical support as needed and to advance and oversee implementation. Throughout the activity, D4I will promote learning across the collaborating countries through webinars and newsletters. We will use the previous successful experience of implementing this activity in Armenia,

¹ USAID, “Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity,” Retrieved from <https://www.childreninadversity.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/apcca-strategy-final-web.pdf?sfvrsn=4>



Ghana, Moldova, and Uganda under the USAID-funded MEASURE Evaluation project

The following links provide background information on the work by MEASURE Evaluation that informs D4I's approach.

<https://www.measureevaluation.org/our-work/youth-and-adolescents/alternative-care>

Armenia:

<https://www.measureevaluation.org/countries/armenia>

Moldova:

<https://www.measureevaluation.org/countries/moldova>

Ghana:

<https://www.measureevaluation.org/our-work/youth-and-adolescents/alternative-care/alternative-care-in-ghana>

Uganda:

<https://www.measureevaluation.org/our-work/youth-and-adolescents/alternative-care/alternative-care-in-uganda>

Expected Outcomes

Outcomes anticipated by the end of this D4I activity are:

- Improved country capacity to assess progress on national protection and care reform and to set future priorities
- Strengthened country skills in collecting, analyzing, and using high-quality data to inform the strategic management of protection and care reform and effectively address the needs of vulnerable children
- Improved processes, information systems, and coordination of staff and resources for monitoring country progress on the reform of national protection and care systems
- Established processes for regular communication among and sharing lessons learned with other countries on protection and care reform

