

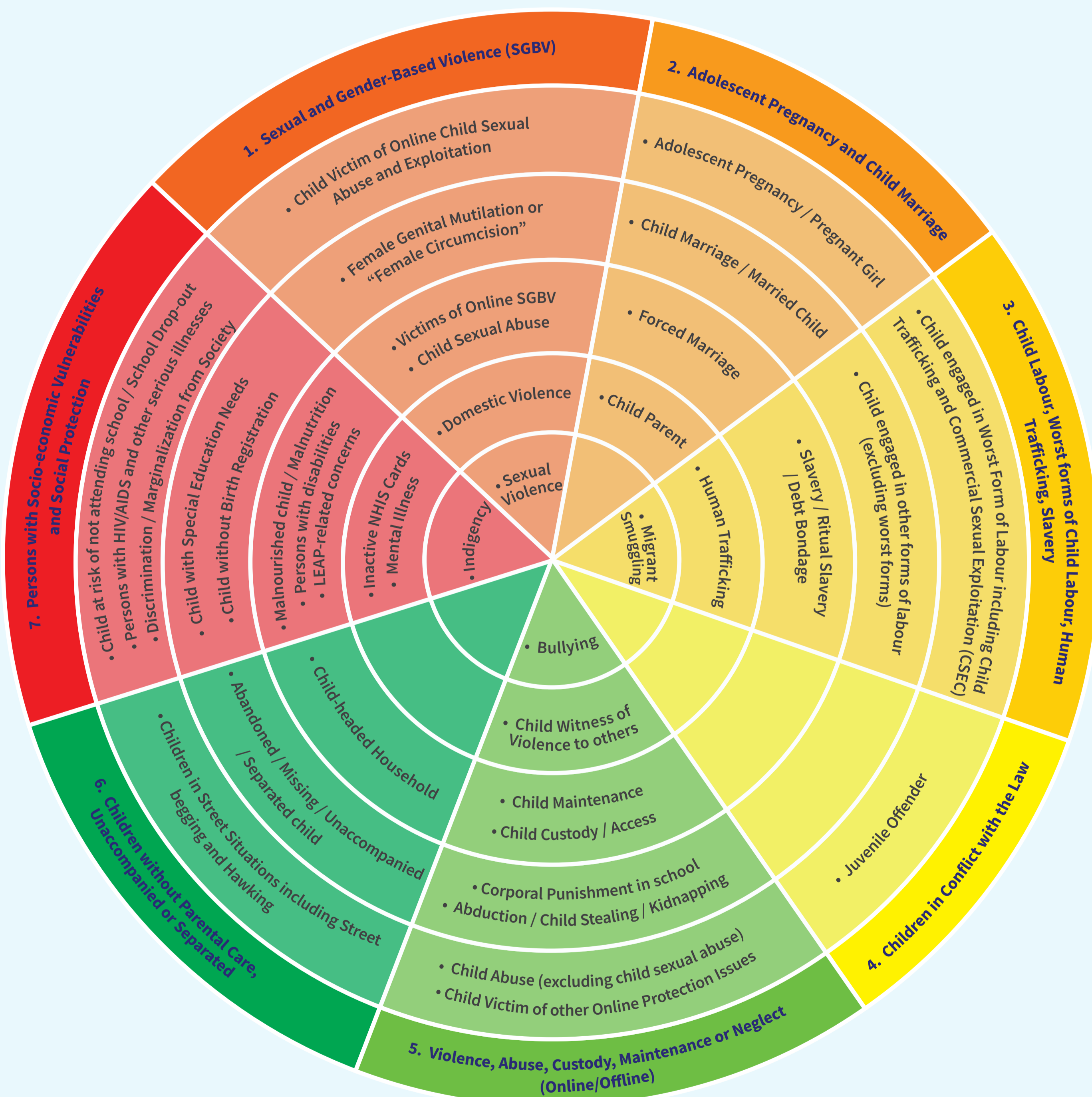
Protection Concerns – Typology & Definitions

FOR CASE WORKERS AND SWIMS USERS



All caseworkers and SWIMS users must assign primary and secondary protection concerns to each case registered using case management forms and SWIMS.

- Protection concerns ascertain the nature of the case, risk level and response required as part of case management. There are two types of protection concerns:
- Primary protection concern** refers to a broad case category. Each case can have only one primary protection concern based on its context and overall nature (e.g. Sexual and Gender-based Violence).
 - Secondary protection concern** refers to a specific violation (e.g. child sexual abuse, female genital mutilation, child maintenance, etc.). As vulnerabilities are often multiple and/or intersecting in nature, each case can have more than one secondary protection concern.



Primary Protection concerns

Secondary Protection concerns

DEFINITIONS OF PRIMARY & SECONDARY PROTECTION CONCERNS

1. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV): Any person who is or has been exposed to SGBV. This includes cases of domestic violence, child sexual abuse and online SGBV.

- Child Sexual Abuse:** A child below 18 years who has suffered from or is at risk of incest, defilement, rape or other sexual violence (including attempts). The age of sexual consent is 16 years.
- Child Victim of Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:** A child victim of abuse or exploitation linked to the online sphere such as the production or circulation of child sexual abuse material (e.g., indecent pictures, videos), live streaming of child sexual abuse, and sextortion. It includes child grooming and cyberstalking for sexual purposes.
- Domestic Violence:** A victim of specific acts, threats to commit or acts likely to result in physical abuse, sexual abuse, economic abuse and/or emotional, verbal, or psychological abuse within a previous or existing domestic relationship. It includes harassment, intimidation or harmful behavior. Violence against domestic workers at the workplace falls under this category.
- Female Genital Mutilation or "Female Circumcision":** This refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons.
- Sexual Violence:** An adult who has suffered or is at risk of suffering from any type of sexual violence including harassment, incest, rape, attempted rape, indecent assault, sexual assault, or commercial sexual exploitation.
- Victims of Online SGBV:** An adult who experiences any form of SGBV in the online sphere such as illegal threats, stalking, incitement to violence, sharing of private images or videos without consent, inappropriate advances online, or sharing of unwanted, offensive or sexually explicit emails or messages. This can be linked to experiences of violence in real life.

2. Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage: A young woman or girl below the age of 19 years who is pregnant or a young mother. Any child below 18 years who is married or at risk of marriage.

- Adolescent Pregnancy / Pregnant Girl:** A girl below 19 years who is or has been pregnant and requires specific support. She may lack access to safe and appropriate sexual and reproductive healthcare and face other socio-economic risks. It may result from pre-marital relations, defilement, rape, early/forced/child marriage or child cohabitation. For those below 16 years, this constitutes defilement regardless of consent.
- Child Marriage / Married Child:** A child below 18 years who is married, either through customary or religious practice or an informal union (cohabitation). It can occur among individuals with a large age gap or individuals close in age. It is prohibited by law.
- Forced Marriage:** A child who is a parent and takes care of another child.
- Forced Marriage:** An adult who without the right to refuse, is promised or given in marriage on payment of a consideration (cash or kind) to her parents, guardian, family or any other person or group. Forced marriage below 18 years is illegal and should be recorded as Child Marriage.

3. Child Labour, Worst forms of Child Labour, Human Trafficking, Slavery: Any child or adult at risk of exploitative labour, trafficking, slavery of all kinds, child labour and the worst forms of child labour.

- Child engaged in other forms of labour (excluding worst forms):** A person below 18 years engaged in child labour other than the worst forms, doing work that is likely to interfere with their education or be harmful to their health and physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. It applies to any child domestic worker who is not the employer's family member and performs domestic chores (e.g., cleaning, childcare, running errands).
- Child engaged in Worst Form of Labour including Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC):** A person below 18 years engaged in the worst forms of child labour, including all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery (e.g., ritual servitude/Trokosi, sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage, serfdom, domestic servitude, forced/compulsory labour including recruitment of children for armed conflict); commercial sexual exploitation; production of child sexual abuse material; illicit activities (e.g. drug production and trafficking); or work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.
- Human Trafficking:** An adult victim of the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, trading or receipt of persons for exploitation within and across national borders as a result of threats, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, exploitation of vulnerability or any transaction to achieve consent.
- Slavery / Ritual Slavery / Debt Bondage:** An adult who has been bought, sold, bartered, transferred or taken with the intention of being treated as a slave. It includes anyone placed in servitude as a security for debt (whether due or to be incurred). It also includes anyone induced, coerced, compelled (including through contract or agreement) to be victims to the above acts, or move/be moved to Ghana or from Ghana for any of the above reasons.

4. Children in Conflict with the Law: Children alleged as, accused of, or recognized as being in violation of the law. This includes cases of juvenile offenders only and not their victims. It includes children on probation, in correctional facilities and children released on bail by police or courts.

- Juvenile Offender:** A child below 18 years accused or found guilty of an offence, act of vandalism, or anti-social behavior.

5. Violence, Abuse, Custody, Maintenance or Neglect (Online/Offline): Any child or adult at risk of physical and/or psychological violence, abuse, neglect, or exploitation (whether online or offline). This includes cases related to child custody, maintenance, and parentage.

- Abduction / Child Stealing / Kidnapping:** Any child stolen or abducted from the care and possession of their primary caregiver (regardless of consent) with the intent of being sexually abused, detained or given into early or child marriage. An adult can be a victim of kidnapping and abduction.

- Bullying:** The use of force, coercion, or threat, to abuse, aggressively dominate or intimidate. Often repeated, habitual, or marked by perceptions of an imbalance of physical or social power among those involved.
- Child Abuse (excluding child sexual abuse):** When a parent or caregiver whether through action or failing to act causes injury, death, emotional harm or risk of serious harm to a child. It covers neglect, negligent treatment, and any act or threat of corporal punishment (see definition under Corporal Punishment in School) as a form of discipline.
- Child Custody / Access:** Legal and practical relationship between a parent and a child, such as the right of the parent to make decisions for the child, and the parent's duty to care for the child.
- Child Maintenance:** An ongoing periodic payment by a parent for the financial benefit of a child following the end of a marriage or other relationship. Child maintenance cases often include other high-risk protection concerns such as 'neglect' which requires comprehensive assessment.
- Child Victim of other Online Protection Issues:** A child who has suffered from online harassment, bullying and cyberstalking.
- Child Witness of Violence to others:** A child who has witnessed any form of violence or killing against others, including family members or close friends.
- Corporal Punishment in school:** A child in a school setting who is hit or beaten with the hand or an implement (belts, canes etc.), kicked, shaken, or thrown, or pulled by their hair, forced to stay in an uncomfortable or undignified position, or to take excessive physical exercise, burnt or faced with the threat of any of these actions as a form of discipline. Corporal punishment inflicted at home or by caregivers should be recorded as 'Child Abuse'.

6. Children without Parental Care, Unaccompanied or Separated: Beyond children not living with their parents, this includes children outside of care by guardians or relatives who are primary caregivers, orphaned children and unaccompanied or separated children in situations of migration (whether internal or international).

- Abandoned / Missing / Unaccompanied / Separated child:** A child who is lost, missing, abandoned or who has run away. It includes children in situations of migration, who are unaccompanied by both parents, relatives and not under the care of an adult designated by law or custom; and children separated from their primary caregivers but not other relatives.
- Child-headed Household:** A child without any adult caregiver who assumes responsibility of head of his/her household.
- Children in Street Situations including Street begging and Hawking:** A child who is walking and has no home or settled place of abode or visible means of subsistence or is begging or receiving alms (whether or not in exchange for goods and services) or is found in any street or public premises.

7. Persons with Socio-economic Vulnerabilities and Social Protection: Persons who, due to vulnerability or poverty, require a wide range of services from the state or other parties. This includes cases related to accessing social protection benefits such as LEAP cash transfers, NHIS, Disability Common Fund, school feeding for children in primary school among others.

- Child at risk of not attending school / School Drop-out:** A child who is unable or unwilling to attend school or is at heightened risk of interruption or discontinuation of education.
- Child with Special Education Needs:** A child with physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual impairments or who requires special attention in general or through specialized education.
- Child without Birth Registration:** A child without any legal identity and birth certificate, who is at risk of being deprived of access to social services, legal protection or statelessness.
- Discrimination / Marginalization from Society:** Any person who due to age, personal history, ethnicity, religion, nationality, social group, caste, illness, disability, gender, sexual orientation or other factors, is marginalized or exposed to discrimination, harassment, physical abuse, vilification and exclusion by society. This takes the form of prejudices, homophobia, xenophobia, or other forms of intolerance. It includes cases of persons accused of witchcraft.
- Inactive NHIS Cards:** Individuals without NHIS enrolment, invalid or expired membership cards. Premium-exempt categories include children, pregnant women, persons with disabilities, indigents, pensioners, SSNIT contributors, elderly above 70 years and LEAP beneficiaries.
- Indigency:** A person exempted from NHIS premium payment and who does not have (a) any visible source of income (b) a fixed place of residence (c) a consistent source of support from another person and (d) does not live with an employed person with a fixed place of residence.
- LEAP-related concerns:** LEAP-related questions, grievances and complaints from LEAP beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries on enrolment and payment. It includes cases requiring compliance monitoring, linkages to complementary services (e.g., birth registration, free NHIS, etc.), update of LEAP household composition and membership cards.
- Malnourished child / Malnutrition:** A child suffering from acute malnutrition as measured by "weight-for-height criteria", "mid-upper-arm circumference" (MUAC) or other recognized anthropometric (=body mass) measurements and would benefit from supplementary (or therapeutic) nutrition programmes.
- Mental Illness:** A person with a mental or psychological condition which impacts daily functioning. It includes both formally diagnosed and suspected cases. Characteristics may include confused thinking; disorientation in time, place, or person; marked inattention; loss of contact with reality; peculiar behavior; severe withdrawal, anxiety, or depression affecting daily functioning. Mental illness can entail risks of harm to self or others.
- Persons with disabilities:** A person with a visual, hearing, speech, physical or intellectual impairment from birth or as a result of illness, injury or trauma and who may have specific needs related to their health, well-being and continued access to rights and services.
- Persons with HIV/AIDS and other serious illnesses:** A person affected by HIV/AIDS or any other serious illness with specific needs related to health, nutrition, and socio-legal protection. They may face challenges in accessing to basic services (e.g., timely healthcare) due to deprivation, economic hardship, stigma or discrimination. It includes children at risk of HIV/AIDS infection at birth, breast feeding and during adolescence.

Other (please specify): In cases with a protection concern that goes beyond what is captured in this typology, select "Other" and specify the new protection concern.

Resources
 DSW: www.mogcsp.gov.gh/index.php/department-of-social-welfare
 Social Services Directory: www.directory.mogcsp.gov.gh
 SWIMS: www.swims.mogcsp.gov.gh
 Ghanaians Against Child Abuse: www.iamgaca.org
 UNICEF Ghana: www.unicef.org/ghana/child-protection

Helplines
 MoGSCP Helpline of Hope: 0800 800 800 or 0800 900 900
 GPS DOVVSU Hotline: 05 5100 0900
 National Cyber Security Centre (online abuse hotline) 292
 Encourage young people to join U-Report for Free! Text the word JOIN to 1755 for free on MTN, Vodafone and AirtelTigo.

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