

Practical measures: Visiting and interviewing adults and children

CLMRS Personnel conduct monitoring visits to households and farms to identify child labour and children at risk. They then conduct follow-up visits to children who have been found in or at risk of child labour until they are no longer in child labour. CLMRS Personnel should consider the following when planning and preparing their visits and whilst visiting and interviewing farmers and children.

Planning and preparing visits

- ✓ **Schedule household visits in advance.** Informing households of the visit at least three days in advance allows caregivers and children to make time to be available and to participate meaningfully. Advance notice supports transparency and builds trust with the community.
- ✓ **Plan unannounced farm visits.** While household visits should be scheduled, farm visits should be unannounced, particularly when there is a need to directly observe farming activities and identify any children who may be working but not present during the household visit.
- ✓ **Consider caregivers' and children's schedules.** Plan visits at times that do not conflict with peak farming hours or school attendance, to ensure meaningful participation by both caregivers and children. CLMRS Personnel should also allocate sufficient time for each visit, recognising that interviews and discussions may take longer than expected.
- ✓ **Review past visit data in advance.** If available, reviewing previous monitoring records for the household or child enables more personalised and relevant discussions during the visit.

Visiting households and farms

Each visit is more than just data collection; it is an opportunity to build trust, raise awareness and strengthen the relationship between the CLMRS Personnel and the household.

- ✓ **Introduce the CLMRS and the purpose of the visit.** CLMRS Personnel should begin each visit by clearly explaining their role, the purpose of the CLMRS, and why the visit is taking place. Even if the household has previously received a monitoring visit, farmers, caregivers, and children may have forgotten details or may not fully understand the objectives. Explain the CLMRS, its objectives, and how it supports child protection, in simple, accessible language, tailored to both adults and children. Consider using visual aids, such as illustrated brochures, short videos, or printed cards, to help explain the key concepts.
- ✓ **Raise awareness.** The visit is also an opportunity to conduct a short awareness-raising session with caregivers and children. This may focus on reinforcing good practices (e.g. school attendance) or explaining the risks of child labour and encouraging protective behaviour by caregivers. Tailor the messages and content of the awareness-raising session to the specific context of the household or farm, for example, by taking the ages and gender of children into account in the examples provided.
- ✓ **Tailor the visit to the household and child.** During follow-up visits, tailoring the content to the child's situation and the support they have received helps emphasise the link between the assistance received and the behaviours being encouraged. For example, if a child received a school kit, CLMRS Personnel should reinforce the importance of education during the follow-up visit and ask about the child's school attendance.

Interviewing adults and children

- ✓ **Explain the purpose of the interview.** Both adults and children should be given a clear, simple explanation of who is visiting them and why they are being interviewed. Emphasise that this is the first step in an ongoing process aimed at improving children's well-being and their future opportunities by reducing child labour. Clarify that the purpose is to understand their situation to offer support, improve the well-being of children, and help them make decisions that better protect their children.
- ✓ **Ask for consent.** Informed consent must be obtained before collecting any personal data, in line with data protection regulations. Children and adults should always be informed that they can stop the interview at any time and can withdraw their consent at a later date. CLMRS Personnel should clearly explain to adults and children how to withdraw their consent.
- ✓ **Choose an appropriate location.** Select a space that is private enough for confidentiality, yet visible enough to ensure everyone's safety, especially when interviewing children. Children should be interviewed individually, without parents or caregivers present, to ensure their answers are not influenced. However, they should never be left completely alone with the CLMRS Personnel. The interview should take place within sight of a parent or caregiver who is not directly involved in the conversation, so that the child feels safe while maintaining privacy.
- ✓ **Use child-centred interview techniques** to collect accurate information, including adapting language and questions to suit the child's age. Use tools such as illustrations, calendars, or cards to help them recall information and understand complex concepts.
- ✓ **Use a neutral tone and avoid reading answer options too quickly.** Give the child space to respond in their own words before reading a response category. This helps reduce bias, avoids judgment and encourages honest answers.
- ✓ **Go with the flow.** Conversations, especially with children, rarely follow the exact order in the questionnaire. When a child feels comfortable speaking about a subject, encourage them to continue and take notes, rather than rigidly sticking to the order of the questionnaire.
- ✓ **Record information about absent children.** Not all children may be present during the visit. They may be at school, visiting relatives, working elsewhere or temporarily away from the household. CLMRS Personnel should still record information about all children living in the household, even if they are absent. This ensures they are included in future follow-up plans and can be interviewed later.