

Practical measures: Referring children in immediate danger

When a child is identified as being in immediate danger or at high risk (e.g., a victim of abuse, exploitation or serious injury), CLMRS may not be equipped to respond alone. When this occurs, implementers must ensure that the case is referred to the appropriate child protection authorities or government services.

To guide the process for referrals, implementers should undertake the following measures:

- ✓ **Develop a clear internal protocol** for identifying, documenting, and referring cases of children at immediate risk, aligned with national child protection procedures.
 - ✓ Ensure all staff understand when a case exceeds the CLMRS's capacity and requires referral.
 - ✓ Establish clear internal roles and responsibilities for managing urgent cases.
- ✓ **Map existing child protection services and government actors** in the area.
 - ✓ Identify the types of support each actor provides and their referral criteria.
 - ✓ Establish coordination mechanisms and designated points of contact with relevant services.
- ✓ **Assess the capacity of referral partners** to respond to urgent cases.
 - ✓ Identify resource gaps that may limit partners' ability to act.
 - ✓ Provide financial or logistical support to referral partners where necessary.
 - ✓ Allocate a dedicated, flexible budget for referrals to enable immediate action when urgent cases arise.
- ✓ **Designate a trained focal point** (e.g. child welfare or social protection officer) to lead on high-risk cases.
 - ✓ Train CLMRS personnel to recognise signs of immediate danger or high risk.
 - ✓ Ensure staff understand referral pathways and can act quickly in collaboration with protection actors.

Once a system comes across a case that needs referral, follow these measures:

- ✓ **Refer cases promptly** to appropriate authorities or services when a child is in immediate danger.
 - ✓ Document all referrals in the CLMRS database (including date, case type, and receiving actor).
 - ✓ Follow up systematically to confirm the child has received support.
 - ✓ Assess whether additional or complementary support is required
- ✓ **Continue providing appropriate support and guidance** to the household alongside the formal protection response.
- ✓ **Ensure coordination** between CLMRS support and external services to avoid gaps or duplication.