

The Interagency Child Protection Information Management System (IA CP IMS)

Quick Facts

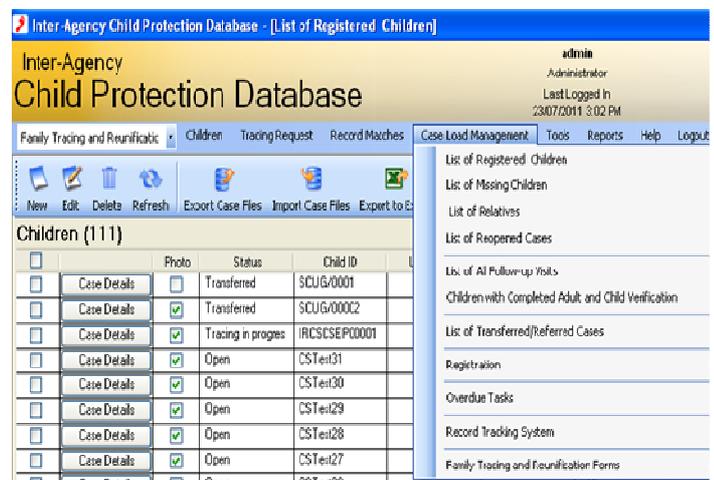
The IA CP IMS has been used to support child protection programming in 18 countries: Chad, CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, Burundi, South Africa, Haiti, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, S. Sudan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Agencies that have used the IA CP IMS include CCF, JRS, IRC, CARE, Save the Children, War Child, GTZ, UNICEF, World Vision, CARITAS, FHI and national NGOs and government line ministries

It has been used to support

- Family Tracing and Reunification Release and Reintegration programming in Sri Lanka and Myanmar
- Case Management of vulnerable refugee children in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya
- Street Children programs in Myanmar

The International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children and UNICEF have been working together since 2005 to promote the use of a standard inter-agency child protection information management system for the child protection sector. The information management system is a practical, field-level tool that supports effective and timely responses to individual vulnerable children. It is comprised of database software and accompanying resources and guidance documents, such as standard documentation forms and template data protection protocols.



The IA CP IMS was originally designed to facilitate the ease of family tracing and reunification (FTR) of children in emergencies. In 2009, it was redesigned and enhanced to have the ability to support any thematic area of child protection, including those supporting child protection systems. The IA CP IMS has since been used to facilitate case management and promote optimal care in Release and Reintegration programs and programs supporting children with specific vulnerabilities in camp settings. To date, the system has been used in 18 countries by a range of child protection actors.

Capabilities and benefits of the IA CP IMS database software

Case Management¹ - The database software allows case workers to store and organize children's information in electronic "case files" that can be adjusted and edited as a child's case progresses over time. The system can be programmed to "flag-up" tasks that are due (or overdue) for each child in his/her case load, thereby ensuring timely management and follow-up of each case.

Family Tracing and Reunification – The database systematically records both children who are separated/unaccompanied in emergency settings and those who are reported missing and facilitates instantaneous matching of records, allowing for quicker identification of possible "lost" or relocated parties.

Data Analysis - The database can produce reports based on a user's need for information and can generate data analyses of aggregate data and trends in data over time. Such data analysis can be used to inform a child

¹ "Case management" is the process of assisting an individual child and, where applicable, their family by addressing their specific care and protection needs through direct support or referral within a coordinated inter-sectoral system of service provision (Child Protection Working Group definition, 2011).

protection program's design, strategy and plans for resource allocation. Reports produced by the database can be used for advocacy purposes, influencing governments and fulfilling donor reporting requirements.

Information Sharing — The system allows information on children to be shared and synchronized easily between child protection agencies and/or sub-offices within an agency who have compatible databases. Children's case files can be electronically transferred from one agency to another, as determined by the child protection staff.

Data Protection and Confidentiality — The database has built-in safeguards that protect children's information and promote best practices in confidentiality by allowing different levels of user permission/access to information stored with the database. There are options to withhold or encrypt information when sharing files and there is a function that allows data protection requirements specific to each child's wishes to be stored.

Customization of the database to contextual needs — Allows database administrators complete flexibility, discretion and autonomy to design the database to meet the needs of their specific program. Allows users to use the tool in emergency contexts, development contexts or both (across the continuum of care).

Global Level IA CP IMS Support Structure

The Project Team is comprised of a Project Coordinator and Project Manager who provide day-to-day guidance and support to new and current users of the IA CP IMS database software and associated tools and resources. The Project Team can be contacted at childprotection-IMS@rescue.org for both general inquiries about the project and information management, as well as queries about how to set up and customize the database to support a CP project in your field location, specific questions on how to use the IMS to enhance case management programming and software related questions.

The IT Support Team provides detailed technical support and consultation to users through an online Helpdesk. The Support Team can be contacted at www.childprotectiondatabase.org/support

The Steering Committee is comprised of members from Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee, and UNICEF. The Steering Committee provides strategic oversight to the IA CP IMS project and can be contacted directly by member agencies for general project information.

IA CP IMS website:
www.childprotectionims.org

IA CP IMS e-Learning tool:
<http://www.childprotectionims.org/e-learning>

The IA CP IMS in Legeone, Haiti

Save the Children staff members, Hérold Rodrigue and Chantale Auguste meet with Williamson in their offices in Legeone, Haiti. Hospitalized after falling ill in the orphanage where he stays, Williamson could not return to the orphanage. A hospital cleaner, who has a son the same age as Williamson, began caring for the boy and eventually agreed to foster Williamson and raise him along with her son. Save the Children monitors and follows-up on Williamson's case as they continue to conduct Family Tracing and Reunification to find his family.



Since the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, child protection organizations such as Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee and UNICEF have used the IA CP IMS to assist their Family Tracing and Reunification work and their longer term case management of more than 5000 children who were separated from their families and left vulnerable by the disaster. Williamson is one of those children.

For more information about the IA CP IMS, please contact our team at childprotection-IMS@rescue.org