Case Study:

Child Protection System

It is three weeks after a tsunami has hit Area X, and reliable figures on the situation of children are still not available. Many organizations, including UNICEF and Save the Children, are conducting assessments in different districts and sub-districts. The government has identified 200,000 individuals that have been displaced and 15,000 children and young people between the ages of 7-20 who lost one or both parents in three districts of the overall 10 affected districts. Through government-led coordination meetings, it has been noted that sexual exploitation and trafficking of children existed prior to the tsunami. Going into the third week after the disaster, children have reportedly been taken out of Area X; however no real cases of sexual exploitation or trafficking have been recorded. Hundreds of thousands of people are living in barracks, shelters or camps, increasing the risk of children falling victim to abuse and violence.

You have recently been recruited by the government to join their inter-agency working group tasked with helping them design an effective child protection intervention for this emergency situation.

After listening to Professor Michael Wessells' lecture and reading the references given, please explain what your inputs would be for 1) priority programming and implementation; and 2) monitoring and evaluation for the emergency phase, by ensuring that the community-based mechanisms are taken into account for the best interest of children**.**

When discussing your inputs and recommendations, you and your group should consider the following:

- A systemic approach should focus on prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

- A systemic approach emphasizes the interconnectedness of child protection and other sectors.

- A systemic approach assumes that child protection is a separate sector of work, and is not the responsibility of other sectors such as education or welfare.

- The range of situations where child protection is a concern in emergencies may be heightened, while capacity may be weakened.

- Emergency situations may provide new opportunities to strengthen (or at times build) the systems that will provide greater protection for larger numbers of children, beyond the relief services that will help people cope with the situation.