

Proportion of assisted household with a reduced Protection-based Coping Strategy Index

(SRF Indicator Update)

Introduction

For several years now, the humanitarian situation in the Sahel region has been deteriorating, due to armed conflict, food insecurity and climate change, to name but a few. This has led to a migratory crisis, with almost 5,249,735 people displaced by May 31, 2023. This situation amplifies the phenomena of violence and in turn increases the vulnerability of those affected.

To mention just a few examples, we can see, among others:

- Increased pressure and lowering of the age of marriage for girls, the age gap and differences in power imbalances between spouses, early childbirth, etc. all increase the risks.
- The loss of schooling and the destruction of education and health services mainly affect children, women (particularly those of reproductive age), the elderly, the sick and those in difficulty, against a backdrop of low civil registration and high mortality among women in childbirth.
- Displacement to urban/suburban centres and the recent breakdown of local protection and conflict management systems are leading to new rights violations and social tensions.
- Difficulties in socio-professional integration for young men lead to difficulties in getting married (and therefore an increase in the age at marriage) and psychological stress (anger and frustration at having difficulties in taking on the "productive" role expected of men) which could lead to strategies such as joining armed groups.

Within the scope of **integrated protection** activities, particularly in relation to the Food Security and Economic Recovery sector. DRC has developed this approach with the aim, through FCEcRec interventions, of **ensuring a reduction in the use of negative coping strategies based on protection, and consequently reducing people's exposure to protection risks by increasing their resilience and reducing their vulnerabilities.**

Based on work already carried out in other DRC intervention countries, it is recommended to **contextualize negative survival strategies based on protection in the project's intervention zones.**

How to contextualize negative coping strategies based on protection.

The main objective was to find out **which strategies are used in our intervention zones, and consequently to be able to measure their use and the impact of our programs on their use.**

To contextualize negative strategies based on protection, we recommend conducting a series of focus groups in the intervention localities. In each of these localities, focus groups were held with women over 18, men over 18, boys aged 15 to 17, and girls aged 15 to 17. For each of the three categories, *stress, crisis and emergency*¹, negative coping strategies based on protection should be reviewed, and communities should report on whether they are being used. For example: *"In a stressful situation, would you resort to early marriage for adolescents?"*

¹ **Stress strategy** indicate a reduced ability to cope with future shocks or stressors following experiences of incident or threat of protection. They include strategies that are socially possible but run against the social ideal model.

Crises Strategy are associated with an immediate and direct reduction in the identified protection risk. They include strategies that are considered marginal in the social context.

Emergency Strategy also influence future protection risks, they are more difficult to reverse or more dramatic in nature than crisis strategies. They affect the way in which the person/household is included in society. They pose a risk to the way in which the person meets his or her basic physical, social, psychological, cognitive, and spiritual needs. They include strategies that are considered extreme in the social context.

Once the focus groups have been conducted, the program teams must compile all the responses. Next, a meeting between the program teams and technical coordination will be held to validate the strategies retained for each category for each locality, to retain a harmonized approach to the strategies by category and to produce a module that could be integrated into all SARE and integrated protection projects.

How the measure the reduced Protection-based Coping Strategy Index

During a survey, respondents answer the question: "In the past 30 days, has anyone in your household done any of the following to cope with a lack of food or money to buy food? For each of the 17 actions below, recipients answer yes or no.

| Protection-sensitive coping strategies | Classification |
|---|----------------|
| Reducing health and education costs | Stress |
| Relying on a household member to eat out | Stress |
| Pressure to adapt roles and tasks within the household without equal redistribution | Stress |
| Sending household members to eat elsewhere | Crisis |
| Withdrawing children from school | Crisis |
| Sending children to live outside | Crisis |
| Marriage or relationship outside the community | Crisis |
| Increased children's working hours | Crisis |
| Move or migrate household | Crisis |
| Sharing home/accommodation | Crisis |
| Begging | Emergency |
| Illegal activities | Emergency |
| Encouraging/recourse to early marriage | Emergency |
| Abandoning family members | Emergency |
| Displaying marginal/self-destructive behaviour | Emergency |
| Sending children out to work | Emergency |
| Practicing survival sex | Emergency |

The list and formulation of Protection sensitive coping strategies should be contextualized with the support of the community.

To calculate this indicator, households are grouped according to the most extreme strategies they have used. For example, a household that uses 1 stress and 1 crisis strategy is classified as 'crisis', a household that uses 1 crisis and 1 emergency strategy is classified as 'emergency'.

If a Household did not use any of the coping strategies, it is classified as Neutral.

The proportion of households in each coping strategy group (**neutral/None**, **stress**, **crisis** or **emergency**) is reported.

PCSI Analysis Example



Calcul_PCSI.xlsx

Two types of analysis:

- *Prevalence of each strategy*
- *Categorization of households according to the most extreme strategy adopted (4 categories)*