

# EVALUATING SYSTEMS CHANGE

## Insights and Challenges from UNICEF Evaluations in the Area of Child Protection



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# (GENDER) TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMMING

## **Gender transformative**

- Prevention of violence
- Social norms work

## **Gender sensitive**

- Response
- Systems change work
- Humanitarian settings

Usefulness of “protection” label?

# UNICEF'S CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME-IMPACT PATHWAY, 2017

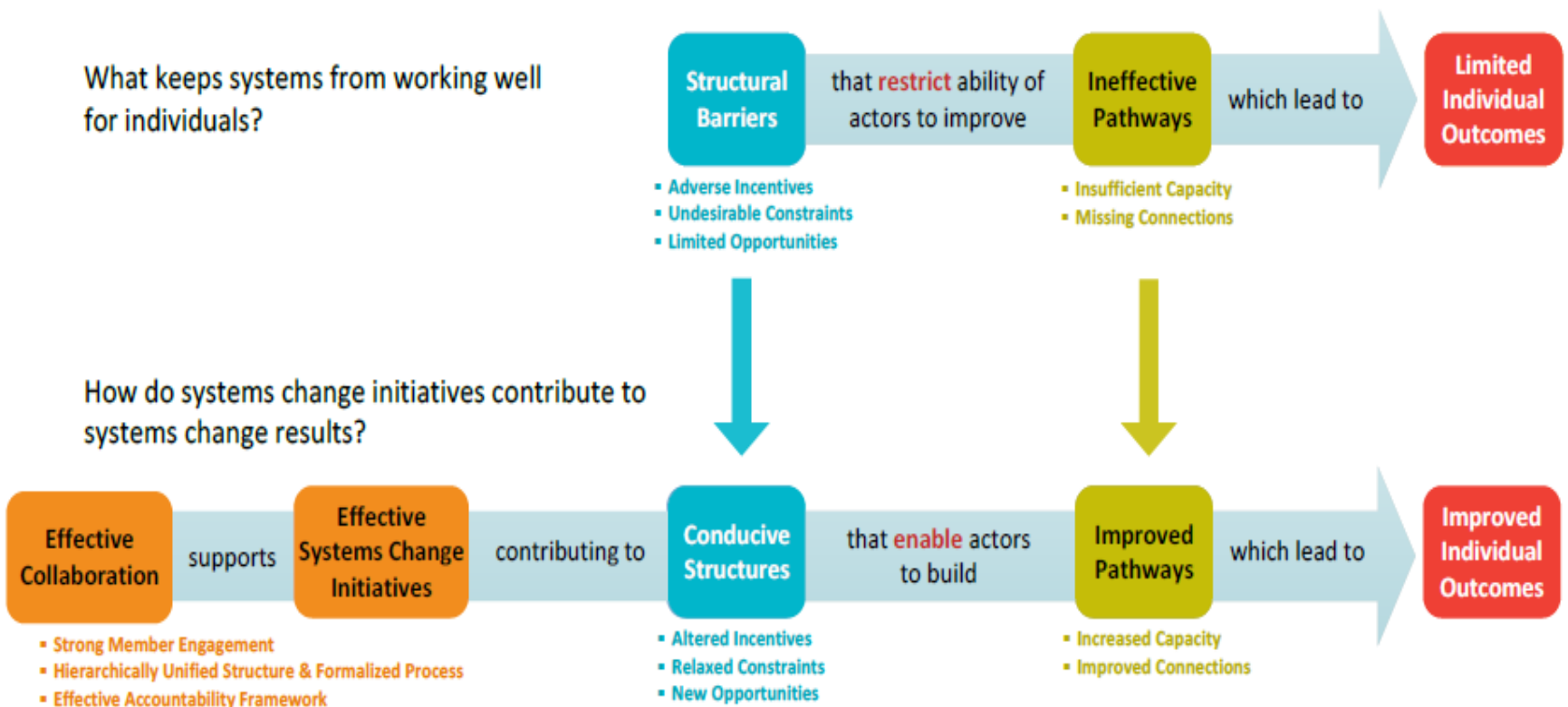


**NOTES:** *Violence against children* includes all forms of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, including violent discipline and sexual abuse and exploitation of girls and boys, including adolescents, in all settings (e.g. home, schools, community, online). *Situations of vulnerability* include girls and boys with disabilities, in institutional care, deprived of liberty, in extreme poverty, unaccompanied/separated from family, affected by HIV or any other social or economic disadvantage.

# THREE ENTRY POINTS FOR ASSESSING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE (Latham, 2014)

Seeing systems change:

How can initiatives build systems that work better for individuals?



# ASSESSING COLLABORATIVE FUNCTIONING: WHAT WORKED?

## LEARNINGS

- Explicit focus of evaluations: UNICEF's leadership, leveraging and convening roles
- Build on existing stakeholder analyses and systems mapping/assessment exercises
- “Connectedness”

## CHALLENGES

- Intangibility of “system”
- Boundaries of system, overlapp
- Perspective? Reliance on UNICEF self-reporting in data collection
- In KIIs with partners: focus on coordination mechanisms etc. blurs focus on results

# ASSESSING STRUCTURES: WHAT WORKED?

## LEARNINGS

- Assessing legal and policy frameworks
- Process tracing (e.g. pathway to passing Mexican General Law on Girls', Boys' and Adolescents' Rights)

## CHALLENGES

- Assessing implementation/service provision
- Focus on UNICEF contribution – national structures seen as given
- Focus on national (rather than decentralized) levels
- Identify leverage points

# ASSESSING PATHWAYS/LIVED EXPERIENCE: WHAT WORKED?

## LEARNINGS

- Case study approach
- Affected populations as informants (but: weaker on involving boys, younger children)
- Key role played by national consultants
- Focus groups: gaining better, more authentic data

## CHALLENGES

- More upstream work
- Limited gender-transformative aspirations (local level: response; slow trickle-down from prevention work, intangible)
- Use of impact criterion
- Affected populations as partners/true participants – empowerment
- Ethics (e.g. anonymity, selection of children)

## SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

- UNICEF's systems strengthening work in the area of child protection fits the definition of “transformative change” but probably not that of “gender-transformative change”
- While evaluations were solid in assessing collaborative functioning and structural elements of transformative change, more needs to be done to gauge how (whether) the programme-impact pathway is experienced by girls and boys themselves

# Thank you!



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