

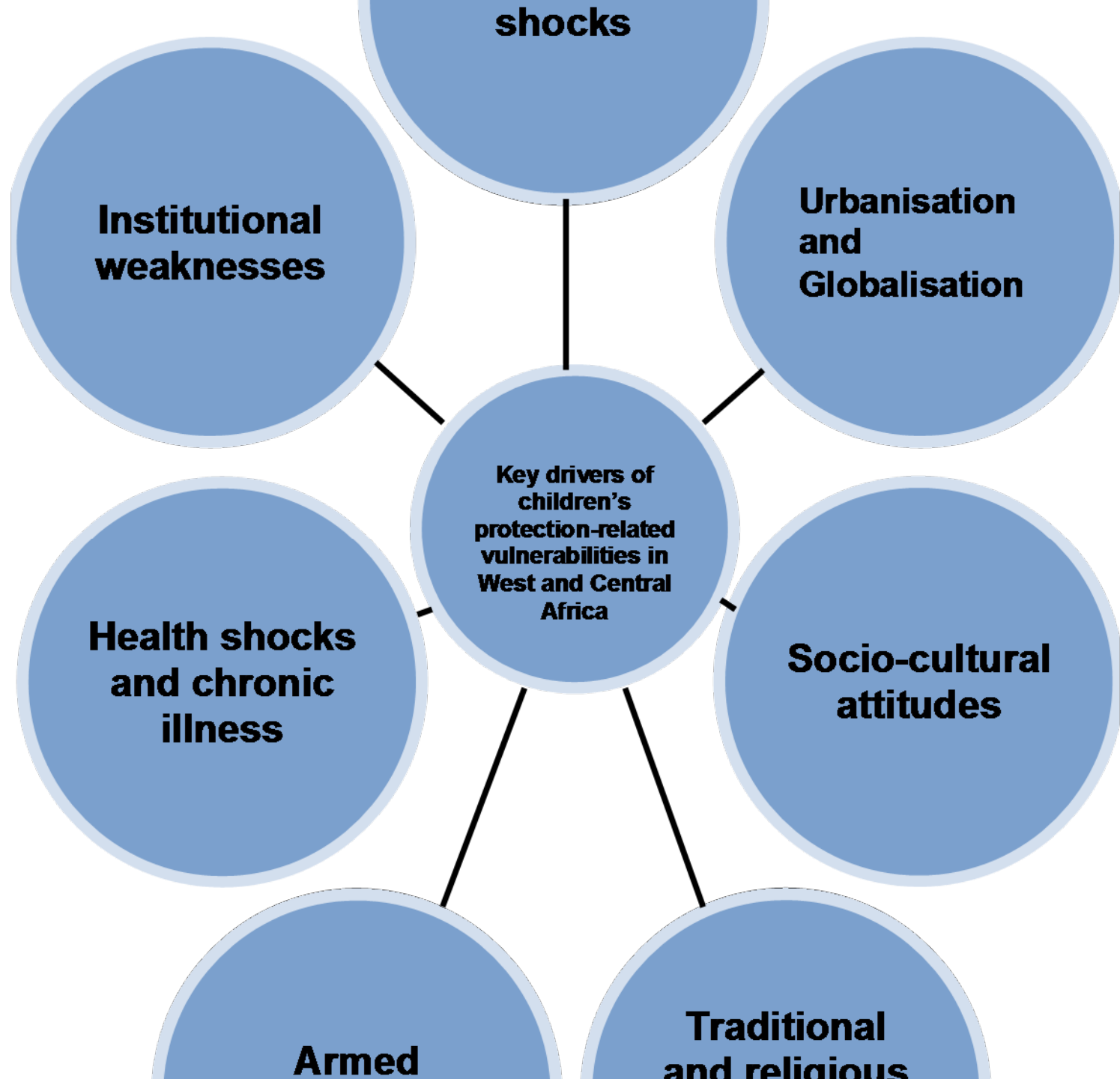
Promoting synergies between child protection and social protection systems

Presentation overview

1. Key drivers of child protection vulnerabilities
2. Existing child protection systems
3. Potential synergies between child protection and social protection systems

1. Key drivers of child protection vulnerabilities





2. Child protection systems



2. Child protection systems

- Child protection systems can be categorised as comprising *‘the set of laws, policies, regulations and services needed across all social sectors — especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice — to support prevention and response to protection related risks [...] At the level of prevention, their aim includes supporting and strengthening families to reduce social exclusion, and to lower the risk of separation, violence and exploitation’* (UNICEF 2008:4).
- Such systems remain weak and under-resourced across the WCA region
- Limited inter-sectoral planning and coordination
- High degree of dependence on international agencies and NGOs for funding and service implementation, but efforts remain fragmented

Awareness, responsive and reintegration services

- Importance of aligning domestic **legislation** with international rights commitments under the UNCRC
- However, the extent to which such legislative frameworks are in place in WCA varies widely.
 - In some contexts protection bills are only in process or absent entirely, whereas in a number of others, including Ghana and Senegal, there are specific Acts, Codes or the incorporation of child rights into constitutions.
- Yet even where there is a strong legislative framework, preventative **awareness-raising** activities remain weak and under-funded.
- Responsive and reintegration-oriented social services have received more attention.
 - E.g. Partnerships with ILO through the IPEC programme have been effective in a number of countries in tackling the worst forms of labour in armed conflict, trafficking, cocoa and commercial agriculture (especially in Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria) and in mining (Burkina Faso and Niger).

3. Synergies



3. Child protection and social protection synergies

- Ensuring that child-related issues are not compartmentalised into vertical programmes, but rather integrated throughout agencies related to the fulfilment of children’s rights (especially health, education, labour, justice and social welfare line ministries) is essential.
- This requires institutionalised inter-agency mechanisms that ensure regular meetings, common data systems and coordinated management.
- In order to address resource constraints, detailed costings of capacity building and awareness-raising and preventative activities is an important first step, in line with the pilot initiatives UNICEF is already supporting, e.g. in Mali and Ghana.

Opportunities with transfers

- Transfer programmes:
 - inclusion of especially vulnerable children among the target groups for transfers (e.g. OVCs),
 - making participation in the programme conditional upon child protection-related conditionalities (such as birth registration and non-involvement in child labour and trafficking)
 - using the interface between government frontline workers that disburse cash or in-kind payments to communities as an opportunity to develop a dialogue around child rights.
 - Development of a single registry system (e.g. Ghana's LEAP programme) and promoting linkages with complementary protection services.

Additional entry points

- Social health insurance – integrated services at primary health clinics
- Development of anti-discrimination legislation as part of transformative social protection
- Encouraging multi-stakeholder engagement, especially the involvement of traditional and religious community leaders

Conclusions

- Childhood poverty and vulnerability is multi-dimensional; child-sensitive social protection needs to effectively tackle both economic and social vulnerabilities (including protection-related vulnerabilities)
- There are strong windows of opportunity to realise this due to the role that many social welfare agencies in the region are playing in social protection processes
- But capacity and resource constraints are a major challenge which require urgent attention, including the generation of data and monitoring and evaluation systems