

Handout: Actor mapping

An actor mapping gives you a visual tool that allows you to describe these relationships. The mapping can help you identify and better understand the actors you are currently interacting with and also identify new actors and possible new relationships that you may want to explore moving forward.

Tasks:

1. **Identify relevant actors:** Use post-it notes to write down the external actors that you and your child protection colleagues are engaging with, such as national authorities, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, civil society organizations, parties to conflict, etc. Post them on the flipchart and use lines to describe each actor's relationship with the child protection or the mission and between each other. You can use dotted lines to indicate weak relationships.
2. **Analyse actors and relationships** by discussing the following questions:
 - a. Existing relationships: Which external actors are child protection staff primarily interacting with? Are these the right actors to coordinate with? Why or why not?
 - b. New relationships: Who else should child protection staff be coordinating with on child protection because of their technical expertise, geographical reach or other factors?
 - c. Coordination among actors: Are relevant actors coordinating effectively among each other to ensure adequate responses and prevent violations? What can child protection staff do to improve their coordination?
3. Be prepared to report back to the plenary in 40 minutes.