Review of the Child safeguard policy:

1. Definition of the child.
   Children should be defined as diverse individuals below 18 years. The addition of diverse implies that children are not a homogenous group and they have varying needs despite all being below 18 years. The implementation of the policy will require the application of the diversity lens on understanding the programmes, projects, activities done by states, Children organizations and other stakeholders.

2. Easy to read and understand Child safeguard policy.
   The policy should be translated into accessible easy to read and understand format that enables children, parents and stakeholders with intellectual disabilities to understand. This can be done with support of the visual aid and few words to help understand the protection.

   The guidance forms on parent permission to involve children in the programme or research and child consent and will form should be attached to help the implementors and researchers to safeguard the rights of the children with clear guidance on how to approach. Below are some of the drafts came up with based on those used by University of Chicago.

Draft

IDRC Child consent form:

We are from the IDRC and we are asking you to be in a research study/Programme. We do research studies to learn more about how the world works and why people act the way they do. In this study/Programme, we want to understand/learn about [topic of study.]

What are you doing?
We would like to ask you to [describe study procedures, such as take a X minute math quiz and complete a X minute survey for math class today]. On the survey, you can skip any question if it makes you uncomfortable.

Do I have to be in this study or programme or project?
You do not have to participate in this study. It is up to you. You can say no now or you can even change your mind later. No one will be upset with you if you decide not to be in this study or programme or project.

Relationship with school, teachers, friends and parents/relatives:
Your grades and your relationship with your school, teachers, friends, parents, relatives and classmates will not be affected if you choose to not participate in the study or if you choose to stop participating at any point. If you do not participate, you can work quietly at your desk during the quizzes and surveys in your math class. You will not miss any instructional class time by opting out.

Will being in this study hurt or help me in any way?
Being in this study will bring you no harm. There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this study. It will hopefully help us learn more about [study topic].

What will you do with information about me?
We will be very careful to keep your answers to the [quizzes and survey questions] private. Before and after the study we will keep all information we collect about you locked up and password protected.

If you want to stop doing the study, contact [name of research team member] at [phone number] or [email address]. If you choose to stop before we are finished, any answers you already gave will be destroyed. There is no penalty for stopping. If you decide that you don’t want your material in the study but you already turned them in, just let [member of research team] know.

If you have questions about the study, contact:
Insert contact information for the research team here

If you have questions about your rights in the study, contact:
IDRC
Jess Mitchell
205 Richmond street, Toronto.
Phone: 416-977-6000 ext 3965
Email: J.mitchell@ocadu

Agreement:
By signing this form, I agree to be in the research study described above.

Name: ____________________________ Date: ________________

You will receive a copy of this form.

Second draft

Template for Parental Permission [delete text in red and insert other information where appropriate]

IDRC
PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM FOR CHILD’S PARTICIPATION

Study or programme Title:

Principal Investigator/programme Manager:

Researcher/implementor:[if applicable]

Your child is being asked to take part in a research study or programme. This form has important information about the reason for doing this study or programme, what we will ask your child to do, and the way we would like to use information about your child if you choose to allow your child to be in the study.

Why are you doing this study?
Your child is being asked to participate in a research study about …. The purpose of the study is …

What will my child be asked to do if my child is in this study or programme?
Your child will be asked to [explain what participants will be asked to do]. [Explain if you will be asking any personal or sensitive questions.]

Participation should take about [insert expected amount of time].
Parental Permission for Child’s Participation in Programme or Research

I have read this form and the research study has been explained to me. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered. If I have additional questions, I have been told whom to contact. I give permission for my child to participate in the research.

Jess Mitchell
205 Richmond street, Toronto.
Phone: 416-977-6000 ext 3965
Email: J.mitchell@ocadu

If you or your child have any questions, you may contact the researchers at [add your contact information, including name, telephone number, and email address].

If you have any questions about your child’s rights as a participant in this research, you can contact the following office at the University of Chicago:

Parental Permission for Child’s Participation in Programme or Research

I have read this form and the research study has been explained to me. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered. If I have additional questions, I have been told whom to contact. I give permission for my child to participate in the research.
study described above and will receive a copy of this Parental Permission form after I sign it.

**Optional Study Elements**

[This section should include other explicit consents for optional elements of the research procedures, such as audiotaping, videotaping, storing photographs for future use, or using the subjects’ actual name in research publications.]

Initial one of the following to indicate your choice:

_____ (initial) I agree to…

_____ (initial) I do not agree to…

Examples:

**Consent to Quote from Interview**

I may wish to quote from the interview with your child either in the presentations or articles resulting from this work. [If a pseudonym will be used, include this statement: A pseudonym (fake name) will be used in order to protect your child’s identity.]

Initial one of the following to indicate your choice:

_____ (initial) I agree to…

_____ (initial) I do not agree to…

**Consent to Audio-Record Interview**

Initial one of the following to indicate your choice:

_____ (initial) I agree to…

_____ (initial) I do not agree to…

Parent/Legal Guardian’s Name (printed) and Signature Date

________________________

Date

________________________

Name of Person Obtaining Parental Permission Date.

For studies taking place in a school, this paragraph generally should be included (if you are unsure whether to include this paragraph for your study, please contact the SBS IRB for guidance):

Parents, please be aware that you have the right to review a copy of the questions asked of or materials that will be used with students. If you would like to do so, you should contact [Principal Investigator] to obtain a copy of the questions or materials.

The above forms can be further reviewed to make them appropriate to the different contexts the stakeholders work in

4. Translation into different languages.

* The policy should be translated into different languages such as French, Spanish, Chinese and others to enable stakeholders understand it.