



Emergency

The goal of Save the Children Sweden's emergency programme is to reduce the vulnerability of children prior to and during emergencies which include both conflicts and disasters.

OUR PROGRAMMES

1 Child-centered community based disaster risk reduction

Child-centred disaster risk reduction is a community based framework where children play important roles in their communities to minimise the negative impacts of disasters. Children are included in a meaningful way to assess, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate disaster risk reduction. This programme focuses on informing States and other actors on successful child-centred disaster risk reduction initiatives that could be implemented or replicated in South and Central Asia countries. We work with policy makers, decision makers, emergency practitioners, the media and the general public to raise awareness and build the capacity of all actors to respond effectively for children in a disaster setting.

3 Child protection systems in emergencies

A rights based child protection system is equipped to adapt to emergency situations and builds on existing community-based structures. This programme works to ensure child protection systems respond effectively in an emergency and prevent family separations, reunite children with their families, seek agreement with combatants to protect children and set up child friendly safe spaces. In this programme children and their mothers access basic services such as reporting human rights abuses, protecting children from physical, psychological and sexual harm, and psychosocial support. We empower children as change-makers and work with children to identify and address child protection issues before and during emergencies. We evaluate past and current methods and draw upon local expertise to ensure our work is effective.

2 Engaging with civil society and encouraging participation

Civil society is a group of people joining together for a common objective. It includes non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, professional associations, churches, trade unions, media, academia etc. This programme builds the capacity of civil society organisations to participate in developing and implementing emergency response plans together with local authorities. We improve dialogue between stakeholders and work to improve the socioeconomic conditions of marginalised and excluded groups to increase their participation in decision-making and reduce their vulnerability to emergencies.

4 Education in emergencies

It is crucial to provide education from the outset of every emergency response. Not to do so is to deny affected children of their right to education, crucial survival skills and the capacity to be productive citizens once the emergency is over. This programme ensures children are provided a safe space to recover from the trauma of the emergency. It offers children a sense of normality, structure and hope while they continue their education. This programme includes promoting research and evaluation of disaster risk reduction in schools and communities as well as establishing best practice in child-centred disaster risk reduction. By establishing safe spaces for schools in emergency settings we help to protect children from death and bodily harm and impart critical information on simple hygiene and health issues. Children in such schools are less vulnerable to being recruited into armed groups or being trafficked.

5 Including marginalised children in emergency responses

A key part of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is to ensure inclusion and non-discrimination. This programme develops a strategy for finding a gender balance and ensuring marginalised children are included in emergency responses. We work through the Save the Children Alliance at the global level to ensure emergency preparedness plans, response plans and interagency working groups reach all groups in society. We encourage such practices to be documented and replicated in other agencies, countries and regions throughout the world.

UNCRC and Emergency

Article 6 guarantees that every child has the inherent right to life and ensure the survival and development of the child.

Article 12 guarantees that the child has the right to express his/her views freely in all matters affecting the child and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity and shall be provided the opportunity to be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child.

Article 13 ensures the child has the right to freedom of expression; including freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.



Save the Children

Sweden

Regional Office for South and Central Asia

JDA Complex 6th Floor, GPO. Box 5850,

Bag Durbar, Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal

Office Telephone: +977-1-4251627/4251389 ,Fax: +977-1-4222235

rosca@sca.savethechildren.se , <http://sca.savethechildren.se>

Emergency in South and Central Asia



Our Past and Current Programmes

Programme	Response	Country	Intervention
Pakistani children in crisis	Emergency	Pakistan	Child protection, non-food items (NFIs)
Child protection programme UNICEF funded for Mansehra	Conflict induced displacement	Pakistan	Child protection
Save the Children Sweden earthquake response programme in Balochistan	Earthquake	Pakistan	Child protection, education
Save the Children Sweden earthquake response programme in Mansehra	Earthquake	Pakistan	Child protection, education
Rapid humanitarian response to emerging needs of newly displaced IDP children and their families in northern Sri Lanka	Earthquake	Sri Lanka	Child protection, education, shelter, NFI's
Integrated early childhood development programme	Conflict induced displacement, resettlement	Sri Lanka	Education, emergency, rehabilitation, disaster preparedness.
The protection and development rights of children displaced by Cyclone	Cyclone response	India	Child protection
The protection and development rights of children displaced by cyclone SIDR	Cyclone response	Bangladesh	Child Protection
Child protection and education of Koshi flood affected children	Flood	India Nepal	Child Protection and Education
Tsunami Response Programme	Tsunami	Sri Lanka India	Health, child protection, education, shelter/construction and livelihoods

By including children in disaster preparedness and responses can we reduce their vulnerability

An emergency is a situation where lives, physical and mental well-being, or development opportunities for children are threatened as a result of armed conflict, disaster or the breakdown of social or legal order, and where local capacity to cope is exceeded or inadequate.

Due to unjust sociopolitical legacies, conflict has deepened ranging from caste, class, religious and ethnic to communal conflicts. This has contributed to inadequate government institutions, corruption, weak political will, insecurity and poverty. Disputes among family members due to worsening economical conditions and increasing-conflict has its greatest impact on marginalised children and women's lives.

The number of internal conflicts appears to be growing in the region due to inadequate attention and inability of the state to address the conflict issues. 25 years of armed conflict in Afghanistan and droughts for the past 10 years have on-going negative effects on children. Pakistan has seen a rise in extremism and political violence, while also Bangladesh has been facing political turmoil and violence. In Sri Lanka the conflict lasted 26 years, while Nepal and Tajikistan are in vulnerable post conflict situations.

The occurrence of disasters has increased threefold since the 1970s and it is expected to increase in the coming years. The terrible Asian Tsunami, December 2004 and South Asian Earthquake, October 2005 remind us how prone Asia is to natural and human-made disasters.

South and Central Asia is an emergency prone area. Three out of four persons killed in natural disasters in the world live in Asia. The link between disasters, vulnerability and failed development is well known.

In India about 60% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes, over 40 million hectare is prone to floods, about 8% of the total area is prone to cyclones and 68% of the area is susceptible to drought. About 30 million people are affected by disasters in India every year.

Floods and landslides in Nepal affect 62 out of the 75 districts. Bangladesh is frequently hit by disasters, particularly floods, cyclones and drought. In Sri Lanka floods, landslides, tidal waves, cyclones and droughts are widespread.

Political instability and disasters hamper development. Lack of protection and harsh living conditions put children at risk for abuse and exploitation. Children are perceived as mere victims and therefore, there needs are not adequately addressed in policies and rehabilitations programmes carried out by state and non-state actors. Children and youth have a right to participate in efforts to protect themselves from hazards and vulnerabilities, particularly through their participation in decisions and efforts to address disaster management and risk reduction.



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