



Report

Training Workshop on SAARC Regional Framework for Action Children and Disasters

Hyderabad, India, 7-11 February 2011

Organized by:

**SAARC Disaster Management Centre,
National Institute of Disaster Management,
MCRHRDIAP, UNICEF & Save the Children**

Training Workshop Report

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2011



Save the Children

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1. BACKGROUND:

Though Disasters affect the entire community and all sections of the society, the Children are most vulnerable to all the direct consequences of Disasters. Children are particularly at risk because they are in the process of physical and mental development and hence are the worst affected due to their lack of experience and maturity, as they are unable to fully comprehend what has happened to them. During Disasters children may witness terrible events, physically see death and violence, watch the anger, frustration and desperation of adult victims around them. These experiences will result in serious emotional needs. There is a need to reach out to these children to resolve these feelings and address their physical, emotional and mental health needs and enable them to regain a sense of control, gain a new sense of independence and feel capable and confident. Since children as active participants and recipients of disaster assistance, it is important to ensure their overall protection and well being. Hence, there is a need to develop a regional framework of action on 'Children and Disasters' to address the special needs of children vulnerable to multiple natural hazards and man-made disasters.

2. ORGANIZERS

- (a) SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), New Delhi
- (b) National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi
- (c) Dr. MCR HRD Institute of AP, Hyderabad
- (d) UNICEF
- (e) Save the Children

3. PARTICIPATION

There were 43 participants from all the 8 SAARC member Countries. The list of Participants is given in Annexure- I. All the participants were selected through scrutiny of their submitted CV/Application form sent to SDMC. Most of the participants were employed at prestigious government, Non-Government Organisations/ institutions in their countries with different academic and professional background.

4. COURSE OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this Training Workshop is to bring governmental representatives, civil society practitioners on one platform to engage in shared learning and shape the issues, challenges, priorities and needs of Children in Disasters in South Asia to develop a regional Framework for Action on Children and Disasters attempting to address the unique needs of children in the disaster context of South Asia.

5. APPROACH:

Children in Disasters approach is through 2 pillars i.e., Pillar 1: Collective and in depth understanding on key perspectives and thematic issues around Children in Disasters: A: Child Survival – Health – Nutrition; B: Protection; C: Education; D. Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Vulnerabilities and Pillar 2: Developing a Regional Framework for Children and Disasters for application in South Asia.

6. COURSE CONTENT

The course consists of two parts i.e., Training course for three days, whose contents are devised in such a way as to give the participants a comprehensive account of Children and Disasters in South Asia. This is followed by a two days interactive workshop to prepare a Framework for Action on Children and Disasters.

The following topics were covered during the training programme:

- Impacts of disasters on children and their vulnerability
- Inter- Agency Standing Committee guidelines
- Child Protection in Emergencies
- Millennium Development Goals, DGs-EiE-WASH & Other International and Regional Frame works
- International Standards for service delivery to children
- UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies
- Children and Emergencies in South Asia: Vulnerabilities and capacities:
- Identifying Sectoral Needs of Children from different age-groups
- Panel discussion on Child protection in Emergencies
- Panel discussion on Child Survival – Health and Nutrition
- Panel discussion on Education in Emergencies
- Panel discussion on Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction
- Panel discussion on Children and Climate Change
- Panel discussion on Institutional Framework in protecting children's rights and safeguarding well-being
- Panel discussion Baseline for the Regional Framework on children and disasters

7. METHODOLOGY ADOPTED

The training methodologies adopted for conducting this programme are as follows:

- ❖ Lectures
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Group Discussions, Exercises
- ❖ Interaction

8. TRAINING INSTRUCTORS

The training was provided by experts from various organizations i.e., from SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi, Dr. MCR HRD Institute of AP, Hyderabad, UNICEF, Save the Children, Red R India.

9. PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME:

The day wise proceedings of the training programme are as follows:

Day 1 : Monday, 7 February 2011:

Inaugural Session :

The programme began with a welcome address by Sri G. Chandrasekhar Reddy, IFS, Joint Director General, Dr. MCR HRD IAP, welcoming all the delegates to the workshop. He elaborated on the theme of the workshop “Children and Disaster” and highlighted the key concerns in the context of children and disasters.

Sri P.G. Dhar Chakrabharthi, IAS, Director, SARRC Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi has explained the objectives and expected outcome of the workshop. During his address, he said that one-third of all those affected by disasters are children. South Asian region has seen 1333 disasters and around 90000 persons were killed in the last 10 years. About 27% of children (below 18 years) in the world are from South Asia. Everyday 11000 children die in this region due to disease and malnutrition. All these countries have national action plans for improving their children’s situation. There is much more to be done. We have responsibility to improve the situation of children and protect them from exploitation. Children are the most affected at the time of disasters. This is first ever workshop on the needs of children during disasters. This workshop will engage government representatives and civil society practitioners in shared learning and develop a South Asia Regional Framework to address the needs of Children in Disaster and Emergency Situations. It will contribute to SARCC social chapter commitment to children’s rights in the context of disasters.



Sri Md. Shafiquz Zaman, IAS, Director General of Dr.MCR HRD IAP in his message, felt that the issue of children in times of disaster is an important issue. Disasters, both manmade and natural, are not new to us. The changes in environment have intensified disasters. Despite availability of technology, the damage is still high. Children are more vulnerable during all disaster situations as adults will be in the state of shock during disaster. He emphasised that the real challenge during disasters is immediate response to children's needs such as nutrition, health, etc.

Sri David McLoughin, Deputy Country Representative, UNICEF India in his address, emphasised the need for child-led disaster management plans. While emphasising UNICEF's humanitarian assistance focuses on life saving, in particular during emergencies, he said that humanitarian assistance is more relevant in future years due to multidimensional nature of disaster risks. He said that Disaster risk management program for reduction of children's vulnerability must focus on child led knowledge enhancing and action continuum as children are valuable and they need to be protected.

Keynote Address

The Keynote address was delivered by Prof. Santha Sinha, Chairperson, National commission for protection of child rights. In her address, she observed that children are affected due to multitude problems but often, children find last place in planning. She said that this workshop is first of its kind in terms of childrens concerns and priorities during disasters. She said that there cannot be any prioritization and children's rights are to be

simultaneously addressed. Unless we know how to deal with children in ordinary time, it is not possible to deal with them during disasters. *School (and education) is biggest violator of child rights.* School cannot be compromised and so also children in schools. She said that there are instances of child losing one academic year during severe disasters. There is a need to map out children's needs in critical years. She said that the community needs to be prepared for taking charge of children and creating spaces for extraordinary time. We all need to take charge of radicalising democracy, which helps in taking care of children. What we must recognise is that stability of adults deepens democracy and child rights. A cadre of child defender (a protocol to take care of children) are to be promoted. She reiterated that the *Best security is security to children.*



Inaugural Address

Delivering the inaugural address, the Chief Guest, Sri Marri Sashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice-chairman, National Disaster Management Authority, was concerned that children affected by disaster, both natural and man made, is higher South Asian than other regions. It will increase further with climate change. He said that children's life gets scattered, at the time of disaster, with dislocation from area they live, their families and communities. So, it is very difficult to define what constitute safer place for them. He emphasized that it is not enough to limit to rescue the children. We need to emphasise on mitigation and preparedness aspects. The disaster education should be part of childrens curricula. He narrated a story of a British girl who saved 100 people in Thailand during 2004 December Asian Tsunami by alerting people after seeing changes in ocean movement, which she learnt during her geography lesson.



He said that the National Plan on Disaster Management laid emphasis on vulnerable groups including children. But enough is not done in terms of protecting children during disasters. The Disaster Management Authority is constituted at state and district levels, which are different stages of implementation. We have also promoted the Disaster Response Force, which not only respond at the time of event but also engages in community capacity building. Having attended this workshop, he said that he would go back and talk about the preparedness of children which was not looked at in the past. He said that School safety program will be launched soon to help children learn about safety and demonstrate mitigation measures. Besides setting up response force state level, special program to children will be explored. He hoped that the framework that emerges from this workshop would be in a position to give assurance to children and better prepared to address the concerns of children. At the end he asked the children to prepare and take lead in preparing others on disasters, as disasters are going to occur more frequently due to climate change.

Release of book: Later, the chief guest, Sri Marri Sashidhar Reddy released a book published by UNICEF: *First response*. The inaugural session concluded with a song by children. A mother's travail for her son. The vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. M. Bhaskar Rao, Specialist, Knowledge Management Division of the SARRC Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi.

Voices of Children: Children from affected areas (Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar and East Godwari) have shared their experience. While floods in Kurnool are unusual, East Godwari faces it very often. The voices of children are as follows:

| District | Children Voices |
|---------------|--|
| Kurnool | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rajesh Kurnool (Chinnagummadapuram):</i> He is a studying class 7. During floods in 2009, villagers called police, who shifted them to peedagummadapuram. We stayed for two days with out food. On third, people from neighbour villages fed us. When we returned to village, our houses were collapsed, lost our belongings (e.g., books) and school was also collapsed. SPES provided child friendly space after the situation. We were taught about child rights, constituted mothers committee and children protection committee. The organisation also provided school infrastructure and study material for us. • <i>Rani:</i> she is studying class 3. We took help of police to move out of village. Although we were with out food for a few days, people in neighbour village gave us food for 4 days. Our house collapsed and we lost all our belongings. |
| Mehaboobnagar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anwesh (kutakanoor, MBNR):</i> is in class 7. During floods we were taken to sindanoor, where we stayed for 3 days. We got panicky with the rise of water levels. To communicate we used one mobile (and all the chargers as there was no electricity) relatives and others. After returned village we found that everything is lost (including livestock). Commitments extended necessary support and measures for preventing the spread of diseases. • <i>Jagdeswar Reddy (Nagardoddi – MBNR).</i> I am affected by polio. The Commitments has admitted me in BIRDS and got operated. During floods our house collapsed and lost all our belongings. (Stayed outside the village for two days). The organisation besides providing food, extended study material and agriculture implements. |
| East Godavari | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ganesh (East Godawari):</i> Every year we will receive rains. ACTION trained us on preparedness aspects - disaster cycle, task force, first aid, early warning and camp management. • <i>Durga Prasad:</i> Trained on preparedness – 3 times flood in 2010. Shifted pregnant women, children and handicapped with information received. Saved loss life and but could not property. Almost 30-45 days is school lost. No support from government, while rice is given it people. Disaster cycle (before, during and after)– identifying location of various people. Disaster history (written and memory), vulnerability assessment and training. During disaster: prediction and warning. After: relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Not bale to save ourselves and others time. He appealed government to train children and teachers. Facilities are to be provided (pre-ground as we receive flood every year) • <i>Edukondalu:</i> Village contingency plan (trained 30 adults +20 children). Understand disaster and prevent loss. Root to safe place were marked (and location of vulnerable people) and shift them in priority. So loss of life is prevented (bur property is any way lost) – 5 task force –warning, evacuating, facilities at safe place, first aid and help (floating objects) • <i>Sathyannarayana:</i> First AID task – 9 types of bandages (depending parts hurt). Also snake bite also. And <i>Bima Raju explained about sake bite (as two people bite) and process to be followed (not run or sleep – provide curd) and spot where snake bite take out and take to doctor.</i> • <i>Daramendar kumar:</i> School is located in low lying area (road on one side and other side water body). Road accidents and 2006-2010 flooded. So, school safety. Marked hazardous places and green lines are safe passages; and task forces are created and training provided. • <i>Demos on how people are lifted when difficult circumstances and how rescue local material. Drowned bringing out all the water.</i> |



Thematic Session on International Frameworks for Children in Disasters :

Moderator: Prasad Bhagwan Sevekari, RedR India

Key Objective and Outcome: Familiarise with the existing and emerging global humanitarian standards for improving service delivery to address needs of children in disasters

Presentations: Lecture-1: Impacts of disasters on children and their vulnerability:

Prof. M. Bhasker Rao, Specialist, Knowledge Management Division, SDMC stated that children are worst affected during disasters as they are the most vulnerable. Disaster aggravates vulnerability, affects wellbeing of Children and leads them to panic and fear. The impacts of disasters include loss of familiar environment, fear and insecurity, struggle for food, shelter and other amenities, death, continued threat to their sense of well-being. Witnessing violence and destruction during disasters will also adversely affect the psychological well being of the children.

The impacts of disaster on children can be categorized into four types: Physical, psychological, social effects and Educational effects. The important concern is accessibility to information, support services, knowledge and shelter. The children with special needs are to be given highest priority, as they are among the most vulnerable among children. The needs of 'Orphaned children, Single parent children, Children who are disabled or injured, mentally challenged children, children who have lost close family members and children dependent on critical health care facility'etc. need to be addressed adequately. Children should be given care and support after disasters. Childrens rights are to be

safeguarded. International frameworks on children's rights exists but it is essential to have region specific guidelines as the culture varies. There is also need for critical health care and protect children from abuse. It is also necessary to include school safety.

Lecture-2: Inter- Agency Standing Committee guidelines

Sri P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, IAS gave insights for developing a framework, which is ultimate aim of this workshop. He felt the need for learning from past experience within and outside the region and look at existing frameworks. He said that various documents are available, but we do not have a comprehensive document which provide everything at one place. It is to be noted that convention of child rights and MDGs have not referred about children in disasters. He stressed that in evolving the framework, the following needs of children are to be considered:

- The response: impending disaster –evacuation and search- international guidelines – search any child specific. Medical response: Pediatric needs in disasters is a growing subject. American pediatricians have done considerable work on this. SAARC has started looking at it.
- Psycho-social trauma: Some documents are available. And there is a need to substitute literature.
- Shelter: Global standards are available. The needs of different age segments and girl children have to be separately looked into.
- Protection: It is an area of growing concern. The question to be asked is to what extent legal systems are equipped. This is an emerging issue.
- Risk reduction: Education plays an important role. So, ensure that schools are safe from future disasters
- Children participation: We should not forget that creative faculty of children play a significant role. There is not much work done on children's participation. But we have lessons in the form of case studies, which may be used.

We are living in South Asia. The global standard may not apply. What is needed is to look at specificities of south Asian countries. For instance sensitivities (come from personal laws) are to be respected. We are here to create a new process. Hence, this workshop has unique format wherein interactive sessions will help us understand and reflect on many folded issues and thereby feeding into development of a framework. Examine what is best for children. We should not forget that child protection is related to civil wider protection and hence the need for community based approaches is relevant.

While summing up the session, he observed that human development and disaster have intrinsic /inseparable relationship. It is to be noted that some times development itself has induced disaster. There are many such cases in South Asia. The focus on disaster management is required more than ever before due to shrinking humanitarian space in many parts of the world. This partly due to the absence of minimum standards in humanitarian space and community agreed frameworks. The following are to be critically reviewed (by asking what extent children concerns were taken care) in order to evolve a framework.

- UNCRC has enshrined children's rights; but obligations to do an annual report card and be accountable hardly exist (disaggregated risk reduction in children)

- MDGs are child centric which is evident from the aspects like underweight, enrollment and retention, etc.
- Humanitarian charter expresses agencies commitment fundamental humanitarian principles
- 189 Convention on the right of child
- Humanitarian charter and minimum standards in disaster response
- Child protection in emergencies (CPIE)
- Child survival in emergencies
- Hyogo framework for action -2005-2015 (signed by 168 national governments).

It is to be noted that every SAARC country has a disaster management plan. But the question is whether the concerns of children in disasters are included in these plans: He said that this is an opportunity and appropriate time to create new space.

Lecture-3: Child Protection in Emergencies:

Shri Mohammad Aftab (National Manager, Child Protection, Save the Children) explained that this thematic session would discuss on principles and Approaches policies, practices and the Framework of Action for Child Protection in Emergency. He indicated that designing Child Protection in Emergency Response should include aspects on:

- **Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR)** and Separated / Missing Children Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification (IDTR)
- **Preventing and addressing** trafficking and child labour, Gender Based Violence - Community based approach
- **Child Care:** Working with unaccompanied and children with inadequate parental care, Adoption, foster and alternative care
- **Psycho-Social Care and Support** - Issues and Challenges in working in conflict areas

Mr. Tanaji sen (Executive Director, RedR India) explained that in developing framework we need to look at WASH sector. There is highest burden of diarrhoea and malnutrition in south Asia. It means that these are critical aspects in the context of children: diseases (diarrhoea, pneumonia, malaria) and malnutrition (underlying factors for diarrhoea). In other words we need to think about disease burden of children, concerns related to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. Ultimately we must aim at preventing diseases and addressing nutrition.

Lecture-4: MDGs-EiE-WASH & Other International and Regional Frame works:

Presentation : Shri Ray Kancharla, Save the Children & Shri Tanaji Sen, Red R India

- The CCC (Core Commitments for Children) UNICEF's central policy to uphold the rights of children affected by humanitarian crisis. They are a framework for humanitarian action, around which UNICEF seeks to engage with partners.
- MDGs and Other International and Regional Frame works
- Early recovery- Apply principles of sustainability and local ownership to the delivery of humanitarian assistance as early as possible. Early recovery is not a distinct phase. The aim of early recovery is to stabilize local and national capacities as quickly as possible. Encourage a quicker transition to longer-term recovery.
- Application of CCCs in preparation of Response plans i.e., Goal, Specific Objectives, Strategies to achieve the objectives, Expected outputs, Projects- etc.

Thematic Session on International Standards for service delivery to children:

Lecture-5: International Standards for service delivery to children: Mr.Prasad Bhagwan in his address has explained about various guidelines for humanitarian actors since 2004. The issues of quality, delivery of services, etc have been discussed. He said that after the genocide of Ruwanda in 1994, the need for guidelines for humanitarian action was felt necessary. It took 10 years and several rounds of consultations: First edition in 1999, second edition in 2004 and third will come in 2011. People from 60 countries came together to workout modalities or guidelines, no matter humanitarian space sinks. It is a felt need for adequately equipping on policy and practices that helped it continuously evolving and adding new dimensions. In setting standards it is necessary to examine the basics needs of life of people affected by disaster including children under protection umbrella. It focused on malnutrition, service delivery, education, WATSAN, health, etc. Each sector has standards (universally acceptable and applicable in terms of giving minimum in equitable manner) and indicators (are to be contextualized and could change) as well as guidance notes (to inform and help you determine action). The countries are not following SPHERE as it is a process and recommendation. The flaw is it is not a convention. It is not a law and hence no legal binding. Country like India is adopting or contextualizing to Indian standards. For countries to adopt there is a need to form pressure groups. To bring uniformity and equitability, sphere look into different cross cutting issues such as gender, environment, children, aged, disabled, people living with HIV, civil protection (and thereby looked at different needs). Later, a *small film on SPHERE was screened to provide further insights.*

Lecture-6: UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies

Moderator: Sarbjit Singh Sahota, Emergency Specialist, Unicef India

Key Objective and Outcome: Get oriented towards critical aspects of UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies

Mr. Sarbjit Singh Sahota Emergency specialist, UNICEF India explained about UNICEF's core commitments for children in Humanitarian Action. He interacted with the participants about the ways we can plan and respond to the needs of the children in emergencies.

- First, the hierarchy of results listed out *strategic results, related commitments and benchmarks (based on sphere indicators).*
- All sectors should be covered: health, sanitation, etc. Why many others are not considered as sectors? Because as they are not linked to child survival in disaster. The sectors mentioned need first response.
- Child survival and sphere standards. Focused on technical justification critical aspects and program actions: preparedness, response and early recovery.
- What is new in humanitarian action? There is a difference between humanitarian action in disaster and emergency. There is broader scope for including preparedness and early recovery actions during disaster.

Day 2: Tuesday, 8 February 2011:

Lecture-7: Children and Emergencies in South Asia: Vulnerabilities and capacities:

Key Objective and Out Come: Understand the South Asian contextual challenges and opportunities for identifying and addressing unique needs of children in disasters.

Presentation : Shri Ray Kancharla, Save the Children

Lecture-7: Identifying Sectoral Needs of Children from different age-groups:

Prasad Bhagwan sevekari, Red R India

What are the vulnerabilities: Climate change, Physical – structural aspects, organizational Motivational and social etc.

Formed into groups (by providing handouts to help group work). The output is in the following matrix

| Age groups | Protection | Child survival | Education | Enabling environment |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|--|
| 0-2 years | Psycho-social Legal | Health Nutrition | | Shelter Education space Water and sanitation |
| 2-5 years | | | | |
| 6-12 years | | | | |
| 13-18 years | | | | |

Thematic Panel-1: Child protection in Emergencies:

Moderator: Mohammed Aftab, Save the Children

Key Objective and Outcome: Understand the focal issues and strategic approaches related to ‘building protective environment’ for children in South Asian context

Presentations:

- Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) and Separated / Missing Children: Mohammad Aftab
- Child Care, Adoption and Preventing Gender Based Violence: J. Thatparan, Sri Lanka
- Psycho-Social Care and Support: Rafi Aziz, Afghanistan
- Issues and Challenges in working in conflict areas - Nilofer Shaheen, Unicef
- Preventing and addressing trafficking and child labour – Md. Aftab

Moderator: Mohammed Aftab (save the children)

What are expectations from this session? Protect children from different disasters, identify problems of children, formulation of problems, safeguard children from abuse and exploitation, what vulnerabilities under protection, how integrate within existing policies

Social protection (Protection of all vulnerable groups including the protection of all other rights); Humanitarian protection: protection all rights threatened in emergency

Case study- questions

What are child protection rights?

What are the gaps and in response s from CP perspective?

Responsible position what would be your response?

What do you understand? Physical harassment, teasing, forced sexual activity, trafficking and abduction. Types of sexual abuse: (i) Touching acts (ii) Non-touching behaviour.

Prevention: Awareness creation through training, campaigning, Publications, Legislation Individual case management and referral; Coordination with other sectors and department ; Code of conduct for all staff and workers

Psycho-social aspects care :

Rafi Aziz (Afganistan): Big changes to normal life –loss of family life, etc.

One of the interventions is to provide safe center and socialize, learn, express themselves as they rebuild their life.Rapid assessment will be carried out – government school, or ask government to place.Education (access to information); Provide awareness on child rights through other children; Play ground, indoor grounds, child-child discussion; Referral system linked with ministry of health; Community based child protection

How would these inputs help us in refining the matrix? (Prasad)- discuss within group and further look at what are the needs.

Thematic Panel -2 : Child Survival – Health and Nutrition

Moderator: **Shri Tanaji Sen, Executive Director, Red R India**

Key Objective and Outcome : Understand the main programmatic & policy issues approaches related to priority child survival interventions in South Asian context

Presentation on the Topic: Pediatric Emergencies and IMCI: Child survival in disasters :

Dr. Srikrishna Associate professor, PHFI, Indian Institute of public health, Hyderabad has discussed the following aspects :

- Risks, Water & Sanitation, Water related and Water borne diseases, human behaviour
- Decade and half – has improvement in public health program. Under 5 deaths, - the provision of basic service delivery –breast feeding, skill attendance - we need to do better. 4 out of 5 children are malnutrition.
- 5Fs of transmission of diarrhea: Flies, Fluids, Food, Faeces, and Fingers - carriers of disease. Hygiene practice is a key element in this. The challenge remain addressing open defecation. To address the Hygiene improvement framework

- WHO disease preventions: Hygiene improvement in emergencies, Enabling environment, etc
- Hygiene promotion, Access to hardware
- What is under-nutrition? Killer is under nutrition.
- Child mortality – severe acute malnutrition (more potent)
- Maximize impact by focusing on public health: early vs late presentation, screening and referral by outreach workers. Faster way of interpreting
- RUTF – Ready-to-use Therapeutic food (you need clean water to prepare locally) that is why WASH is important.
- It is misconception that malnutrition will not eat (mostly due to health complication). Child will take milk under any circumstances. Mother is not able to feed (as women is under stress in disasters).
- Food security is related to feeding (accessibility or utilization).
- All the indicators into assessment of situation

Thematic Panel 3: Education in Emergencies

Moderator: Sarbjit Singh Sahota, Unicef

Key Objective and Outcome : Understand the main programmatic & policy issues & approaches related to child's right to education in emergencies

Presentation on Back on track through Education – Prasad:

- Bringing normalcy back on track. Cse Bahraich (perennially highly flood prone in UP). The schools have risk of closing down for three months. UNICEF, district and other would meet and though that could be option. Creating preparation
- Emergency kits school-in-box: Add to it: Rapid resumption of structured educational and recreational activities and include hygiene items.
- There will churning how process should go on. Must be complemented by teacher training and support. Universal design helps preparedness
- Does it create dependency?
- Opportunity to build back better: Ensuring adherence to building codes, devising new strategies (girl school spaces). Education is an aspiration (a poster). Education is an obligation for educational professionals. It is also protection.

Presentation on Child & Adolescent friendly spaces- Venkat-plan

- Education is important even in emergency situation also. Learning opportunities for all children of all ages.
- Quality education physical psychological and cognitive protection that can sustain and save lives.
- Provides an opportunity for importance of inclusive education. Participation and tolerance, conflict resolution, human rights, environmental observation and disaster prevention.
- Education can build a culture of safety and resilience.

Presentation on : Out of School children at Risk: Sanjeev Rai (national manger, Save the children India)

- A set of linked project activities that enable structured learning to continue in difficulties

- Why do you want education? Age appropriate learning. Most often we will not have plan (ad hoc)
- Discrimination in emergency: who cannot access food and shelter simply because of age, ethnicity, gender or disability (already on the margins of the society as a result of discrimination).
- Children do not start any conflict but they become the victims of the conflict first.

Day 3 : Wednesday, 9 February 2011:

THEMATIC PANEL 4 : Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CC DRR)

Moderator: Ray Kancharla, Save the Children

Key Objective and Outcome : Understand the approach of considering children as part of the solution to problems posed by disasters

While initiating the panel discussion, Mr. Ray explained that how important to understand words used in disaster. It would be useful to reflect as to how many ways we understand and engage in risk with children as a watch word. The word vulnerability is used quite a lot and we make statements like children are vulnerable too. The participants were asked to give their understanding of the word ‘vulnerability’ by using 4-8 words (i.e., meaning of vulnerability).

Varied understanding on the word emerged from this exercise, as mentioned below:

- Susceptibility / weakness to cope with external impulse
- Subject to exploitation and danger
- Who are in insecure environment and situation
- Situation where no way out exist
- In need of others help
- Insecure against risk
- Being fragile, weak and suffering
- Stress condition
- Abnormal situation
- Defenselessness

Presentations: Children as disaster risk communicators –

Mr. Ray Kancharla, in his presentation stated that Younger children also have capacity –as communicators in risk. Experience engaging children in DRR. Children reach out all age groups. Have access to embedded families (formal and informal networks). They communicate message through shared meaning. Creative and committed are less influenced to beliefs and willing to trust information sources. He stressed the need to have meaningful participation and discussions around risks and designing informed programmes and policies and Empowering children to be DRR protagonists.

Presentation on Protecting children from disasters- Challenges for national governments and other stakeholders: Manu Gupta (SEEDS India)

Advocacy with national governments and other stakeholders- During a number of past disasters, thousands children died as earth quake occur children in school (eg. Bangaldesh 2005 and China 2008). He said that children die because of weakness and clearly put the blame on adults who very much have capacity to protect their lives. He explained the SEEDS approach: Learn (Deepen their awareness), reflect (analyze factors) and empower (class room and school exercise). Capacity building and

Student task forces (based on local hazrdas) and trained to act during emergencies and the need to conduct Simulation exercises. He also discussed with the participants the emerging issues for framework including Overall policy, building safety, Capacity Building of staff, awareness,etc.

**Presentation on Capacity building, awareness raising on child centered Disater risk reduction -Children as the champions of change in building their communities safer:
Mr. Yudhishtir panigragrahi**

Emphasized that Children knowledge and skills are to be recognized by adults,

He said that a large number of children are out of school children and number of school buildings in hazardous zone. The questions to be asked are: Are we child sensitive when we define words? Are these words were defined in the perspective of children? A sheet with the key terms were distributed to the participants and asked to write how they would like to look at it to be child sensitive.

Summary: Child centered participatory planning in community based disasters risk reduction. Children have the rights to participate, and able to express their needs, opinion and experiences. In terms of quality of participation, we need to keep 18 elements in mind. The most critical is children participation in reflection, monitoring and evaluation.

The panel brought practical examples of how children can be empowered to participate. It is also clear that children participation is essential in issues related to their protection, promote equity, leadership with girls and boys, and integration of people with disabilities and others excluded. The participants were asked to revisit the matrix and incorporate any needed from the additional perspectives emerged from this panel discussion.

THEMATIC PANEL 5 : Children and Climate Change Moderator: Prasad Bhagwan Sevekari

Key Objective and Outcome : Learn the effects of climate change on health and well-being of children

Presentations:

- 1. Climate Change and its Impacts on Children – Dr. Neena Ambre Rao,**
- 2. Sectoral issues arising out of climate change and their impacts on children: Shri Gurudutt, Founder Director, ACTION**
- 3. Social protection measures mitigating impact of climate change disasters on children – Mihir R. Bhat & Md. Aftab**
- 4. Linking Child survival and protection issues to community based adaptation to CC: Ray Kancharla and Aftab**

The panel members discussed the sectoral issues arising out of climate change & their impacts on children – Climate change and its impact on health, food security; How the survival of children depends on various factors, Need to integrate each activity for normal time and development activities. The issue of child labour. Later, Sri G. Chandrasekhar Reddy, Joint Director-General, Dr. MCR HRD IAP made a presentation on 2009 Krishna Floods.

Thematic Panel 6: Institutional Framework in protecting children's rights and safeguarding well-being

Moderator: Sarbjit Singh Sahota, Unicef

Key Objective and Outcome : Understand policies and practices adopted by South Asian countries in addressing the issues related to Children and climate change

Thematic Panel 7 : Baseline for the Regional Framework on children and disasters

Moderators: Prasad Bhagwan Sevekari / Ray Kancharla

This session consolidate key learnings from all the thematic sessions with gaps identified for framework was roll-out through Brain-storming, Group discussion

Day 4 and 5 : Developing a Regional Framework for Children and Disasters

Day 4: 10 February, 2011 (Thursday)

Fore Noon : Country Presentations:

- Afghanistan**
- Bangladesh**
- Bhutan**

- India
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka

After Noon: Group Exercise on Needs of Children in Disasters

- Group-1: Physical Needs
- Group-2: Nutrition, Health and Mental Health Needs
- Group-3: Education and Recreational Needs
- Group-4: Social and legal Protection Needs

Preparation of Group Reports



Day 5 : 11 February,2011 (Friday):

Sharing of group work: The small groups, based on group work carried out previous day, have shared their outputs. After thorough discussion on each of the given topics, it was felt necessary to look at them with disaster perspective. The groups were then advised to review and improve their outputs; and give their views on the draft framework- HO and DP by referring to the specific section of the framework corresponding to each sector. The important points emerged from the revised group work for each sector is presented below:

| Points revised | Comments on draft |
|---|---|
| Education | |
| <p>Immediate needs: Need assessment, establishment of child friendly spaces, capacity building and effective coordination with other sectors.</p> <p>Medium term needs: assessment of drop- outs, immediate resumption of education and provision of teaching and learning materials and basic classroom materials.</p> <p>Long term needs: Integration of DRR into school curriculum, preparedness activities in schools, structural safety of school buildings, and working on policy on disaster risk reduction in education sector.</p> | <p>Add role of PRIs in the institutional framework</p> <p>Mention about the mainstreaming of DRR</p> <p>DRR in school curriculum is to be included</p> <p>Educational material for disability people</p> |
| Physical needs | |
| <p>Added a photo to presentation to express better</p> <p>Plan for hygiene and sanitation with a focus on infrastructure, supplies, awareness and behavioral change.</p> <p>Giving focus to separate (suitable) toilets and bathing spaces for girls - @ one toilet for 20 persons</p> <p>Supply safe and adequate water, supply of hygiene kits, etc.</p> <p>Contextualisation of Global standards based on local situation, especially focusing on children and women</p> <p>Lesson learned and best practise to be shared</p> <p>Awareness and training a continuous process</p> | <p>Private space for lactating mothers, light and torch within room, communication mechanism, participation of women in planning and designing of WASH facilities.</p> <p>Training to water providers</p> <p>Physical need as a barrier to be discussed and addressed</p> |
| Psychological and mental health | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy advocacy • Change in approach for budget allocation • Quality service provision-community based model and contextualizing that • Mapping of disaster specific psychosocial and mental health needs in different countries • Inter-sectoral capacity building for provision of services (and data base has to be maintained) • Specialized services for children with special needs-abused, orphans, children with critical illness, disabled etc • Promotion of collaboration with CSOs and government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 5. Mental health service provision is with Ministry of Health in all most all SAARC countries, hence to be included under health needs • Page 6. Relevant nodal ministry for DM • Page 7. should be included here under public health- as it is a public health issue • Capacity building in Emergency-teachers training • Page 14. division-village level |

| Health and nutrition | |
|---|---|
| Needs analysis Providing the female care and health providers Data collection and compilation (types of health problem, surveillance report, etc) Information management to be integral part of cluster management system Reporting data on services in the context of early recovery plan | Include emergency health services in the document Quality of food and crowd management in relation to child led families |
| Child protection | |
| Child protection must focus on immediate needs, child empowerment and alternative Advocacy will need to part of child protection and to be taken from the beginning (it is phase essential) Immediate needs: critical thing after disaster is care with human face. Creating alternative spaces for care and legal protection such as children clubs, recreation facilities and family based care Long term training plans for all the stakeholders based on capacity building assessment | Include key stakeholders Civil protection vis-à-vis civil defense to be mentioned Add disability and discrimination as an important issue |

Discussion:

- Children as risk communicators under Communication: During disaster all modes of communication are to be used. It need not always be two- way communication. Radio is to be used for one way communication. In other words, media is to be involved for educating, safety and reporting.
- Huge number children are outside the school. So, these children are to be included. There is also need to look at dignity aspect.

Road map: A long list of inputs during the workshop helped in working towards a regional framework. The participants shall take it back home and circulate to their country members and then communicate their feedback. We would be working further on it. Mr. Ray asked the participants to communicate if they want add to the framework even at later date. He also asked them send within 30 days on how this document can be child sensitive. And the best idea will be given award. There was suggestion from the participants to create a community within solutions exchange by SDMC to get views from others and improve it.

At this stage, Sri P.G. Dhar Chakravarthy, IAS, Director, SDMC elicited views of the participants on why this framework. In response, the participants felt that it is necessary to strengthen the legal framework. Other responses from the participants include:

- It is useful to discharge our functions in relation to children concerns; and guides us on governance and institutional vulnerability.
- Many of South Asian countries have formulated disaster management plans with out needed focus on social issues.
- It will sensitize us on needs of children; and set new land marks for our future. For example, we know that positive trends in Sri Lanka in reducing child mortality.
- It guides us towards of common understanding among South Asian countries and plan action on issues that are relevant to the region.

Sri P.G. Dhar Chakravarthy informed that this framework will be further improved and finalized in consultative process. For this to put into use, he said that there is a need to develop tools, methodologies and guidelines. To this end following steps will be initiated: (i) school safety project is approved in potential earthquake area. So, we need to identify unsafe schools and include mitigation activities; (ii) documenting successful experiences; and (iii) networking with all the agencies working on child needs. It is utmost important to bring various stakeholders (policy makers, research, academics, CSOs and private sector) together and take it forward. There was a suggestion from the participants to start a website by SDM on child centered DRR

Valedictory Session:

The valedictory session was presided over by Sri K. R. Suresh Reddy , former Speaker of Legislative Assembly, Andhra Pradesh. Sri G. Chandrasekar Reddy, IFS, Joint Director General, MCRHRDIAP welcomed Sri. K. R. Suresh Reddy and delegates to the valedictory function.

While sharing participants experience during the workshop, Ms. Fatima from Maldives felt that she was inspired the way it was organized. I, in particular, benefited from many others who came here with first hand experience in disaster management. (I am working in education ministry; and came here as it is related to children in the place of a person who dropped out in the last minute). The delegate from Sri Lanka was impressed with the facilitation of workshop by the organizing committee. Many of us here gained immensely from the workshop: insights on global experience and legal framework with respect of

disaster management across South Asia. Together we have developed a framework for the region. It is just a beginning. We need to work together and achieve our goal of addressing concerns of children in disaster.

Sri P.G. Dhar Chakravarthi, IAS, Director, SDMC, in his address observed that this is the first time ever in the history of South Asia various government departments involved in Disaster management and women and children as well as civil society organisations were brought together on the issue of children in disaster in this workshop. And it contributed to the creation of a community on children and disaster, which is an important agenda as children are future of the world. He also said that the workshop was innovatively designed in order to make it more interactive. Almost 44 participants from 8 countries with at least 10 years of experience each (together it is 440 years of experience) shared and learned from each others understanding. Besides identifying the concerns and priorities of children in the context of disaster, this workshop has evolved a regional framework on this issue. He observed that in no other region of world such a framework is available. While acknowledging the support from UNICEF, Save the children, and MCRHRDIAP in organising this workshop and tireless efforts of the facilitating resource team, he congratulated each and every one of the participants to evolve this framework. He also said that there will be another consultation to finalise this draft framework on children in disaster. It will be ready within next 3 months and presented in a global platform in Geneva around May 2011.

The Chief Guest, Shri K. R. Suresh Reddy, former Speaker of Legislative Assembly, Andhra Pradesh has observed that the Disaster management is challenge. He congratulated for this great effort on the part of organisers and participants to crystallize their experience and come out with a document which helps South Asian countries to strategise and act on this important issues, which is more relevant than ever before as intensity and frequency of disasters with climate change. He emphasized that the Children are our future and we do care for children. There is no doubt that we need to use best available resources to protect children, as any effort made on children is best investment in the society. He placed before the participants and invitees the following options for consideration:

- How do we protect children from various forms disasters? We need to create a platform to work with legislative mechanism and bring out best possible policies in favour of the children.

- Being part of and influencing government initiatives are necessary. We from legislature and human rights work out actions for vulnerable children (e.g., affected by HIV-AIDS, migration). The space provided for NGOs/ CSOs in various committees are to be effectively used to share experience and influence thinking of these bodies.
- We all know the hardships faced by children of the poor when they migrate. NREGA, a land mark in legislation, provides social security and helps in family bonding (by reducing out migration).
- Hyderabad has transformed from the city of pearls into a city of dreams. We made all out effort to eradicate child labour in Hyderabad.
- There is a need to focus on various issues concerning children such as making school curricula children friendly, inculcating reading habits and making them fit by involving in Scouts and Guide. These efforts will go a long way in helping children and their future.
- This initiative, he observed, will help taking us closer to the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) – a challenge before all of us.

Later, Shri K. R. Suresh Reddy, Shri P.G. Dhar Chakravarthy distributed certificates, memento and souvenir respectively to the participants of the workshop. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. M. Bhaskar Rao.

10. COURSE EVALUATION

The training programme was evaluated based on a specifically designed evaluation form that looked at various aspects of programme like objective of the course achieved, programme organization, theme coverage through lecture, demonstration and discussions, duration of the course, and logistics etc. All the participants were requested to fill up the feedback form. The views given by the participants is presented below.

| S. No | Item of Evaluation | Grading | Grading | Grading | Grading |
|-------|---|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Structure and organization of the course to meet the objects | Very well structured 10 | Well structured 31 | Some what Structured 02 | Unstructured 0 |
| 2 | Usefulness of this training immediately in the participants present job | Very useful 24 | Quite useful 19 | of limited use 0 | Not at all useful 0 |
| 3 | Practical orientation of the course | Highly practically oriented 08 | Practically oriented to a great extent 12 | Practically oriented to a limited extent 23 | Not at all 0 |
| 4 | Relevance of the Course material supplied | Extremely relevant 31 | Considerable relevant 08 | Fairly relevant 04 | Not at all relevant 0 |

| 5 | Logistics (Boarding, lodging, transport) | Satisfied fully | Satisfied to a large extent | Satisfied to a limited extent | Not at all satisfied |
|----------|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | a) Reception & Transport | 15 | 18 | 08 | 02 |
| | b) Food Quality & Service | 09 | 29 | 01 | 04 |
| | c) Class room facilities | 22 | 20 | 01 | 0 |
| | d) Interaction with faculty | 24 | 12 | 07 | 0 |

Suggestions from the Participants

During the evaluation process, participants were requested to offer their suggestions for further improvement of the programme. Their suggestions were taken in a prescribed feed back form (sample copy enclosed). All the participants have expressed immense satisfaction for the programme. The following are some of the important suggestions offered by the participants.

- Most of participants mentioned that the training was very useful to themselves and their countries . Some participants felt that more practical classes in field and children and disasters may be included. Many participants felt that the duration of the programme could be increased to enable more time to cover more relevant topics adequately.
- Some participants felt there is a need to build public awareness & mobilize society at all levels through the involvement of N.G.Os
- Majority of the participants were of the opinion that the course was very good and well organized.duration should be longer
- Some participants felt that with the concepts received from this training programme and With a new vision, they will be in a better position and be able to respond effectively in dealing with the children separated from their families during disasters

11. CONCLUSION

This course was very useful for all the participants. This course has provided an opportunity to the participants to learn about various issues related to Children and Disasters and provided an in depth understanding on key perspectives around Children and Disasters. The course enabled the participants to develop a Regional framework of action for children and disasters in South Asia. More such training programmes and interactive workshops may be conducted.

9:00 – 11:00 : Presentation of Group Reports

11:00 – 11:30 :Tea Break

**11:30 – 13:00 : Discussion on draft Regional Framework for Action on
Children and Disasters**

13:00 –14:00 :Lunch Break

14:00 –15:00 :Discussion Continued...

**15:00 –16:00 :Finalization of Regional Framework on Needs of Children
in Disasters**

16:00 –16:30 :Tea Break

16:30 –17:30 : Valedictory Session

12. ANNEXURE-1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| S.No | Name | Mail ID | Mobile No. |
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13.

14. ANNEXURE-III: INAUGURAL PROGRAMME

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 0930-0935hrs | |
| 0935-0940hrs | |
| 0940-0950hrs | |
| 0950-1000hrs | |
| 1000-1010hrs | |
| 1010-1015hrs | |
| 1015-1030hrs | |
| 1030-1100hrs | Introduction with Course Participants and Tea |

VALEDICTORY PROGRAMME
Training Workshop on
SAARC Regional Framework for Action
Children and Disasters
Hyderabad, India, 7-11 February 2011

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 1600-1610hrs | Welcome Address: Sri G. Chandrasekhar Reddy, Joint Director-General, Dr. MCR HRD IAP, Hyderabad |
| 1610-1625hrs | Presentation of Regional Framework on Needs of Children in Disasters : Sri P.G. Dhar Chakrabharthi, IAS, Director, SARRC Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi |
| 1625-1645hrs | Valedictory Address & Distribution of Certificates: Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy, Former Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Hyderabad |
| 1645-1650hrs | Vote of Thanks : Prof. M. Bhaskar Rao, Specialist, KM Division, SDMC, New Delhi |