

Children in Emergencies in the U.S.



Washington, DC
Sept 2009

Domestic Emergencies Unit

Children in Emergencies in the US

Disasters are on the Rise

There were an average of 67 federally-declared disasters per year in the US between 2002 and 2007 (26% increase from the previous 5 years)

2008 was the deadliest tornado year in 20 years

2009: projected: 3 big hurricanes and wildfires



The Risk for Children

66 million children in the US (0 to 18) receive out of school care in child care or school **and** live in areas at risk for natural disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes or tornadoes)

Children attending child care or schools at the time of a disaster are the most vulnerable



The Current Reality

Better disaster prep in the U.S. to ensure the safe evacuation and sheltering of **pets** than to ensure the wellbeing of children

US emergency preparedness procedures are woefully inadequate, particularly in schools and child care facilities

Report Card: US is not prepared to protect its children



DEU: Domestic Emergencies Unit

Protective Environments for Children

Domestic Emergencies Programs:

- Preparedness (Disaster Risk Reduction),
Response & Recovery
- Beneficiaries last year: 120,000

Protective Environments for Children

- **Key Priorities 2009: Policy Change**
 - **Chairing the National Commission on Children and Disasters**
 - **Serving on FEMA's National Advisory Council as the sole child-focused advocate**
 - **National and State VOAD member**
 - **State Advocate for child care regulations**

Protective Environments for Children

- **Key Priorities 2009:**

Washington Post

FEMA to focus on children's needs during disasters

By EILEEN SULLIVAN

The Associated Press

Monday, August 3, 2009 2:01 PM

Protective Environments for Children

- **Key Priorities 2009:**

Address the comprehensive needs of children in all phases of disaster planning at local, state and national levels

- **Major metropolitan areas: Tulsa, OK**

- **New York City**
- **San Francisco**
- **San Diego and Los Angeles**
- **New Orleans, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas**

Protective Environments for Children

- **Key Priorities 2009:**
 - **Partnerships: Generate increased concern for child protection through disaster-related partnerships**
 - American Red Cross and Children's Disaster Services
 - NCCC
 - Child Care Networks

Protective Environments for Children

- **Key Priorities 2009:**
 - **Develop evidence base related to effectiveness of child friendly spaces and children's psychosocial well being in emergencies**
 - **Partnership with International Institute for Child Rights and Development**
 - **Increasing organizational capacity and surge capacity**

Response Programs

When Does Save the Children Get Involved?

Has the disaster overwhelmed the community?

Is the number of children that have been affected significant?

Is SC able to meet the community's needs using its resources and expertise?

Additional considerations

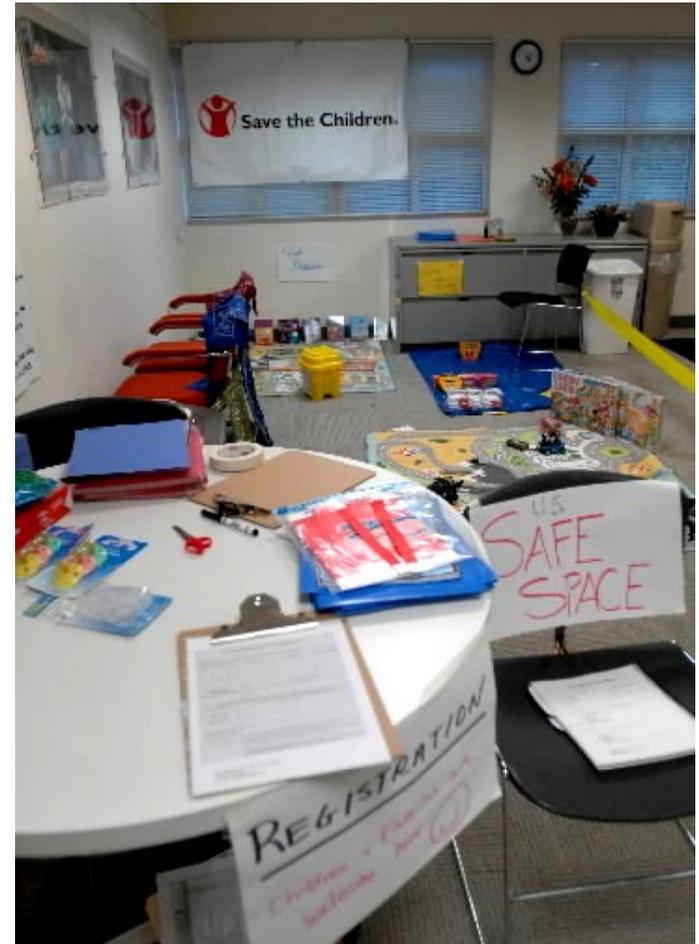
Sheltering – Child Friendly Spaces

**National Partnership with
the America Red Cross
and Children’s Disaster
Services**

Partnership with NCCC

**Technical support,
training and direct
implementation**

**Created Shelter
Assessment with FEMA**



Sheltering – Child Friendly Spaces

500 Safe Space Kits pre-deployed to Red Cross Warehouses

Save the Children REDI Team

More than 1,000; plus 1,200 more this year

Psychosocial Programs

**Community-based,
resilience building
focus**

- **Partner with
Schools and Mental
Health Orgs**
- **Serve children,
teens and adult
caregivers**



Child Care Restoration

Provide emergency child care and respite care

Partnerships to help restore child care:

- Katrina, Ike
- Southern CA Wildfires
- Super Tuesday
Tornadoes
- Midwestern Floods



Distribution: Essential Materials

Provide emergency supplies for children and families (filling unmet need):

Diapers & wipes (400,000+)

Pack N Play Cribs (1,000+)

Emergency Evacuation Backpacks