

Emergencies Talk Outline



Every year more than 60 million children are caught up in emergencies. We respond quickly to their immediate needs.

What is an emergency?

Whenever a disaster strikes, children are particularly vulnerable. In an instant they may lose their home, their community, their security and everything they have. They face multiple threats from violence, disease, malnutrition, trauma and lack of shelter, water, food and education.

An event becomes an emergency when:

- Local families and communities cannot cope or recover from it on their own.
- Save the Children works to protect families' rights to basic services (like water and sanitation) and to make sure that children can get an education wherever they are. We also work to limit the effects of conflict on children and their families.

What do Save the Children do when an emergency hits?

Action 1 – Information

- If there is a disaster we will hear about it from our staff in the country where it's happening, or from the media

Action 2 – Immediate Help

- If our specially trained staff aren't already in the country where the emergency is we send someone out who does an assessment and reports back on the situation, how children are affected and what people need
- Save the Children immediately begins assessing the scale of the problem and planning how to respond

Action 3 – Your help

- We contact our current supporters who include volunteers, schools, shops, who spring into action collecting at their local supermarkets, stations or organise quick events to raise money and awareness
- The emergency also goes up on our website with a 'Donate Now' option where the general public can make a donation
- By fundraising and spreading the word our supporters and the public are helping save children who have been affected by the emergency

Action 4 – Essential relief supplies

- We start to source essential relief supplies and we buy these supplies locally wherever possible. These include water containers, food, mosquito nets, blankets and materials to build temporary shelters

Action 5 – Large scale emergency

- In a large-scale emergency we might fly in specialist emergency staff, such as nutrition and logistics experts, and extra supplies and equipment that are desperately needed and cannot be bought locally

Action 6 – Long term support

- As the situation stabilises after an emergency, Save the Children works hard to help people rebuild their lives.

Essential emergency Items

Plumpy Nut - What is Plumpy'nut?

- Plumpy'nut® is a special high-protein, high-energy peanut butter for severely malnourished children

Muac Bands - What are MUAC Bands?

- MUAC stands for middle upper arm circumference
- Save the Children uses MUAC Bands in all countries to measure if a child has malnutrition
- **Red:** Acutely Malnourished. **Action:** refer / admit to outpatient therapeutic program where the child will be feed and observed regularly
- **Yellow:** Malnourished. **Action:** refer / admit to supplementary feeding programme in which the mother will be given plumpy nut and to feed her child with
- **Green:** Normal. No action needed

Mosquito nets

- After an emergency people may need to sleep in temporary shelters and so it is very important to provide nets so they can protect themselves against mosquito's and the risk of malaria

Hygiene and household kits

- Save the Children deliver hygiene and household kits which will provide a family with all the necessary essentials which they need to help rebuild their lives and stay healthy
- Hygiene kit contains: plastic bucket, soap, plastic bowl, tooth powder, dettol, towel, water pot, plastic mugs bed sheet, mini shampoo

Tarpaulin Sheets

- Save the Children provide tarpaulin sheets to be used as roofing on schools and child friendly spaces and villagers homes
- Tarpaulin sheets can also be used as water containers to capture the rain and provide clean drinking and cleaning water

What areas do we focus on in an emergency?

Education in an emergency

The Problem

- Children and families tell us that even in times of crisis it is vital that schooling continues
- It provides children with a sense of normality and helps them come to terms with the trauma they have experienced

What Save the Children do:

- Build temporary schools in the short term and provide classroom essentials
- Help rebuild local schools in the long term

Protection in an emergency

What are children friendly spaces?

Child-friendly spaces are where children can play and get emotional support and are safe. They are normally made from whatever local material is available e.g. bamboo and covered with tarpaulin sheets provided by Save the Children.

The problem:

- In the aftermath of disasters, children are more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse - especially from traffickers

What Save the Children do:

- The establishment of safe play areas is an important component of Save the Children's emergency relief effort
- The purpose is to give structure to the children's everyday life, so they can feel safe
- They help rebuild the children's confidence and helps them come to terms with the experience they have had to go through

Family Tracing

The problem:

- Conflict and disaster can result in children becoming separated from their families
- Efforts tended to be chaotic, slow and unsystematic, with a lack of co-ordination between agencies
- Many children ended up in institutional care, permanently cut off from their families

What Save the children has done:

- In the 1980s and 90s we pioneered family tracing work, reuniting children separated from their families by conflict or other emergencies
- We introduced big community meetings and public reunions where everyone could look at names and photos of lost children they might recognise and

encourage the rest of the local community to feel involved in a child's future and welfare

- We have developed systems to standardise and match information gathered on thousands of children and families
- Other agencies have now adopted our approaches, and our guides on family tracing are widely used

Hunger in an emergency

The problem:

- In an emergency many children and families are left without food, their livestock and crops could have been ruined
- When children don't have enough food to eat and don't get the vitamins and goodness they need, they get ill

Save the Children support these families and children by supplying:

- Feeding stations and community-based treatment to help malnourished children – supplying high energy, nutrient food and facilities for critically ill children
- Livelihood support, like giving cash for work and seeds to grow crops
- Distributing food, including pulses, cereals and cooking oil
- Giving veterinary drugs and animal feed to families to help keep their animals alive

Health in an emergency

The problem:

- When an emergency hits children are the most vulnerable and susceptible to diseases and exposure, as families are often left without their homes, access to clean water, food and medication

Save the Children offers support:

- Training community volunteers and health workers to spot symptoms of malnutrition
- Supply household utilities and cooking equipment such as pots and pans to displaced families
- Hygiene kits
- Water-cleaning stations
- Set up health centres

Children's Emergency Fund

- Enables Save the Children to rapidly respond to an emergency anywhere in the world at any time
- By having the money in place before an emergency strikes, Save the Children can respond as soon as the need is identified, rather than having to wait to secure public or institutional help

How can you help?

If disaster strikes, we need to start work straight away to save lives. That's why it's so important that whenever we need you most we can ask for your support.

Emergency Network: For Schools

When a school registers to become a part of the emergency schools network they will receive emergency resources and teaching suggestions and will be contacted when an emergency happens and asked to fundraise.

Emergency Fundraising Volunteer

When an emergency hits we contact our Emergency Fundraising Volunteers who start fundraising for us straight away and raise the vital funds needed to help save children.

Emergency Response Challenge

To experience first-hand the complexities of running an emergency response sign up to the emergency response challenge. We'll transport you to a secret location where you'll face a simulated disaster scenario. You'll need to make a plan of action, fast. The £625 you raise to take part will go to CEF.

Props Box

Plumpy Nut

Muddied water

Muac Band

Children's emergency fund DVD