Attachment 2.4 Emergency Response Policy
Version 1.2

Introduction

ChildFund Australia is committed to protecting children and communities impacted by conflicts and disasters and aims to support communities to be prepared to address threats and risks. ChildFund Australia aligns its work to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGO's in Disaster Relief as endorsed by the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).

ChildFund believes that risk reduction is the best strategy to manage disasters; however, when emergencies are unavoidable and do occur, our organisation will provide support to children and their communities to quickly recover and re-establish their lives, dignity and livelihoods. In many cases, these responses will be initiated and build on local capacity and preparedness plans.

Key Principles

Localisation: ChildFund Australia recognises and respects strengthening leadership and decision making by local and national actors in humanitarian action, in order to better address the needs of affected populations (DFAT 2018).

Humanitarian Imperative: The right to receive humanitarian assistance, and to offer it, it a fundamental humanitarian principle which should be enjoyed by all citizens of all countries. As members of the international community, we recognise our obligation to provide humanitarian assistance wherever it is needed (Red Cross Code of Conduct).

Link Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): ChildFund Australia will build disaster response on local capacity. We aim to address better responses by reducing community vulnerability with development of DRR programming that builds local capacity, enables local response and reduces risk.

National Coordination: ChildFund Australia respects global principles of sovereignty in Emergency Response and the right of governments to coordinate and direct national responses. Wherever possible ChildFund Australia Country Offices will work in partnership with national government to value-add to respond to those in need.

Policy Statement

In ChildFund Australia managed program countries, we will build capacity to support delivery of emergency response with a focus on child protection (Child Friendly Spaces), provision of non-food items (NFI's), and Psycho-Social Support. ChildFund Australia will participate in emergency response in communities where we work and will work through partners in other parts of the country whenever possible. A key focus of the ChildFund Australia DRR/ER Sector is to ensure that the organisation and partners has the capacity to 'Switch-On' during times of emergency. Fundamental to efforts to localise humanitarian response, 'Switch-On' is a form of disaster preparedness that focuses on integrating DRR activities into relevant ChildFund projects that can be activated during a

time of emergency. This enables populations to "anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent, or current disasters[1]."

Our organisation will support response to major humanitarian crises and disasters around the world through its Alliance Partners and relevant humanitarian agencies.

Our response will link to that of our partners, Government and inter-governmental agencies and civil society organisations. It will build on local capacity and emergency preparedness plans whenever possible. ChildFund Australia will ensure compliance with the ACFID Code of Conduct in all its emergency funding activities.

Policy Commitments

ChildFund Australia will:
- All ChildFund Australia Country Offices develop an Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) to ensure safety and security of staff in areas of work in the event of an emergency. Adherence to EPP's by all staff and volunteers representing the organisation is expected.
- Adequate planning, budget and human resources are in place at Sydney and country level to develop organisational capacity to implement Emergency Preparedness Plans. This includes Country Director and Program Manager as key Emergency Response focal points in the event of a disaster/emergency.
- ChildFund Country Offices will join a national government Working Group wherever possible to enable effective coordination responses in the event of an emergency/disaster.
- ChildFund Australia actively participates in relevant coordination networks and forums with an aim to influence national, Alliance, regional and global decisions that protect child rights in crisis in a positive way.
- The DRR & ER Advisor at Sydney provides technical support and guidance to develop emergency preparedness and response capacity in Country Offices.
- ChildFund Australia does not introduce new risks or increase any existing vulnerabilities when responding to emergencies. Whenever possible, ChildFund Australia will 'build back better' to reduce future risks and vulnerabilities.
- Link emergency response to risk reduction opportunities at all stages particularly when transitioning from emergency response to the recovery phase.
- Liaise with local and international organisations and networks to increase impact and avoid duplication of response and emergency preparedness.
- Participate in advocacy initiatives to promote policy environments and structures that support emergency preparedness and response.

Guidance Notes

Consult the International Program Team for support documents, such as templates, resources and checklists, to assist with the implementation of this policy. These include formats and guidelines for preparing and implementing Contingency Plans.

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[1] https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology

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