

Child Protection in Emergencies: A guide for networks



When an emergency hits, be it a natural disaster or protracted conflict situation, children are often the most seriously affected. As networks of churches and local organisations on the ground, you are well-placed to respond to the needs of children in emergencies.

You should read this brief in conjunction with the [Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action \(CPMS\)](#) which Viva has helped to develop. Viva's Children in Emergencies Toolkit (childreninemergencies.org) provides many additional tools.

WHAT IS CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES?

Child protection in emergencies (CPIE) is the prevention of and response to the abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children that occurs during a crisis. Emergencies, including conflict, unrest, disasters and infectious disease outbreaks can have long-lasting, devastating effects on children's lives. Effective child protection in emergencies builds on existing capacities and strengthens preparedness before a crisis occurs. During an emergency, interventions support the physical and emotional health, dignity and wellbeing of children, families and communities.

The [CPMS](#) includes a detailed chapter on each of these CPIE risks (right) and you can also find more guidelines in Viva's [online toolkit](#).

STANDARDS ON CHILD PROTECTION RISKS

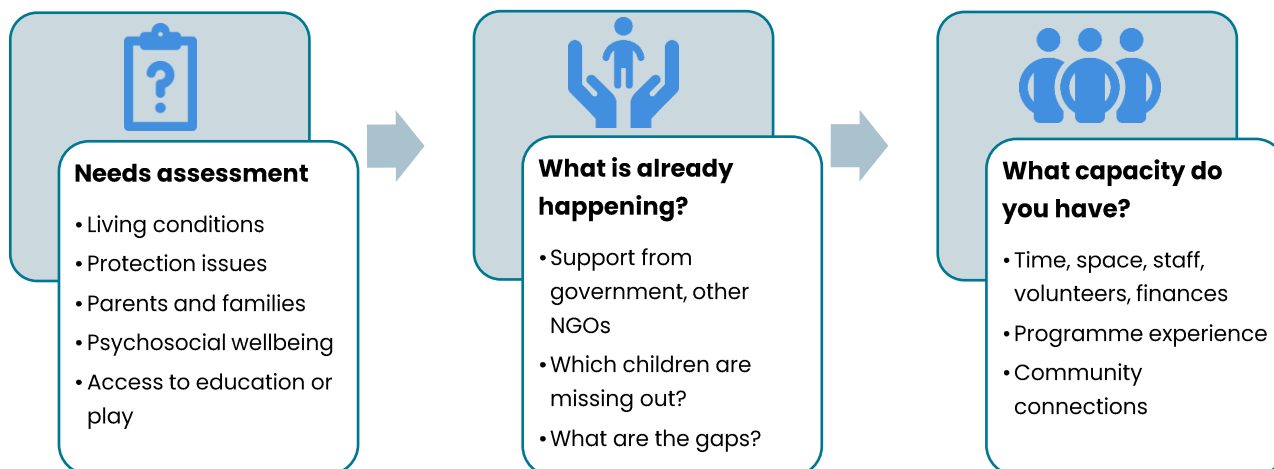
7. Dangers and injuries
8. Physical and emotional maltreatment
9. Sexual and gender-based violence
10. Mental health and psychosocial distress
11. Children associated with armed forces or armed groups
12. Child labour
13. Unaccompanied and separated children

KEY PRINCIPLES FOR CPIE RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

As you develop your emergency response, ensure you have considered:



HOW TO DEVELOP A CPIE RESPONSE



Consider projects which will reach children on different levels:

Child: Direct work with children – preventing and responding to abuse, psychosocial support, inclusion

Family: Work with parents and caregivers, alternative care, family strengthening

Community: Awareness messaging, education and safe spaces, community-based child protection

Society: Advocating for children's rights and needs at local and national level

Find more detailed guidance at childreninemergencies.org and use the CIE programme development checklist to make sure that your planned project meets quality standards.

DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING

Selecting beneficiaries

You should use clear vulnerability criteria to select new beneficiaries for your project based on need. Register beneficiaries by age, gender and disability so that you can monitor access.

Monitoring and indicators

How will you know your project is successful? Choose qualitative indicators as well as quantitative and think about how and when you will gather feedback.

Feedback mechanisms

Every project should include a complaints mechanism to enable beneficiaries to let you know if they have concerns about the project or about any team member.

GET MORE SUPPORT TO DEVELOP YOUR PROJECT

Work with your network consultant to develop your ideas, and use Viva's [growing series of guidance notes](#) for specific programme suggestions.

Also see childreninemergencies.org/coronavirus and childreninemergencies.org/programmesandstories for more resources and ideas.