

*Children in Emergencies in  
the U.S.*



**Save the Children**

***Domestic Emergencies Unit***

## **Goal: Reduce Risks for Children**

- Advocacy & Policy Change
- Preparedness, Response and Recovery Programming

# Advocacy: National Progress for Children

## Save the Children:

- Chairs the National Commission on Children and Disasters
- FEMA's National Advisory Council
- National and State VOAD Member

## FEMA and Administrator Fugate's Commitment:

- **Children's Working Group**
- **DHS 2010 HSGP Supplemental Resource: Children in Disasters Guidance**
- **Public Assistance for Child Care Services**
- Appendix C: "Supplies for Infants and Toddlers in Mass Care Shelters and Emergency Congregate Care Facilities"
  - Essential Items to support children's safety and well-being



**Save the Children®**

## **Advocacy: National Progress for Children**

### **National Standards & Indicators for Mass Care**

- Standards and Indicators for Disaster Shelter Care for Children (ARC)
  - Temporary Respite Care for Children
- Shelter Guidance (STC)
  - Low Cost and No Cost Guidance to mitigate risks
    - Counting Children
    - Family dormitory areas
    - Private breastfeeding area for women

**Advocacy:**  
**National Progress for Children**

## **National Report Card on Child Care and School Preparedness**

- **Five years after Katrina, report reveals 38 states unprepared to protect children during disasters**
- **Note: Report is available at**  
<http://www.savethechildren.org/publications/reports/2010-Disaster-Report.pdf>

## Response and Recovery

### **Save the Children:**

- Served over 190,000 Katrina-affected children and caregivers in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama
- Served over 12,000 children and caregivers affected by the wildfires in Southern California in fall 2007
- Served over 100,000 children and caregivers affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike from September 2008 to date; ongoing response includes psychosocial programs and child care restoration

## Response and Recovery

### **We Respond When:**

Large numbers of children are at risk  
Overwhelms local and state capacity

### **Programs:**

Protection in Shelters (Child Friendly Spaces)  
Child Care Recovery  
Restoration of services for children and families  
Psychosocial recovery

# Preparedness

## Resilient & Ready Communities Initiative

- **Addressing Children's Needs in Emergency Operation Plans**
- **Briefing Emergency Relief Organizations and Officials**
- **Coordinating county-specific Children and Emergencies Working Groups**
- **Developing community capacity : Temporary Respite Care**
- **Providing Disaster Risk Reduction Programs**
- initiative in New York City, DC, TX and the Gulf Coast
- **Child Care Preparedness**
  
- **Resource:**
  - “Children in Emergencies Planning Guide”  
to assist local and state emergency planners

# Child Care Preparedness

## Report Card on Child Care Preparedness

### Development of National Standards for Child Care Preparedness (partnership with NACCRRA)

Key Stakeholder meetings

Roll out to states

Three Components:

List of standards and best practices (Licensing)

Why? (more detail regarding recommendations)

How? (for providers



# Child Care Preparedness

## Comprehensive Preparedness Initiative: CT

### Includes:

- ✓ Disaster-related communication
- ✓ Evacuation and reunification planning
- ✓ Assessment of damage and recovery needs
- ✓ Mapping
- ✓ Establishment of temporary emergency child care standards
- ✓ Plans for Child Care Subsidy Emergency Procedures
- ✓ Business Continuity Planning

**Questions? Comments?**

**Save the Children**

**[www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)**

**1-800-728-3843**

**Thank you!**

