



Development of a Protocol for the Integrated Protection of Children & Adolescents in Disaster Situations in Belize

Children represent **half of the population** displaced by complex emergencies, whether from natural or man-made hazards, and **account for 70% of all deaths** that occur in these events



Children are at risk for both short-term and long-term health problems because of **poor judgment skills**, an **inability to advocate for themselves**, a **lack of physical strength**, and limited biological reserves.



Introduction

Partners	Government of Belize, UNICEF Belize & CDEMA
Beneficiary Community	Belize and the Caribbean region
Expected Result	A protocol that will guide national emergency responsible units into placing the needs of children and adolescents at the centre of emergency response strategies and programmes.



Research Scope

- Since its inception in 2018, the research for the Protocol has expanded to three Caribbean countries:
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Barbados



Guiding Questions



How large is the network of DRR actors in each country?

What were the Governments' experiences in responding to recent events?

How do national DRR plans address the protection of children and other vulnerable groups?

How have the Governments and its partners achieved collaboration and coordination to achieve the goal of protecting children during disasters?

Are children's voices in DRR being heard in each country; voices of other vulnerable groups?

Guyana: Civil Defence Commission



Observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CDC understands and appreciates the International Principles and Standards of Child Protection; however, this does seem to readily translate into local policies
Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No unifying policy document for the protection of children in emergency situations• Not apparent how the CDC takes into account the perspectives of vulnerable populations in the creation of its interventions and policies
Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Much collaboration and coordination among DRR actors at the strategic level;• Child protection actors are able to perform their roles during a disaster

Jamaica: Office of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management



Observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ODPEM developed 2 approaches – recognizing children’s rights in disaster management and response (creation of the <i>Guidelines for Child-Friendly Disaster Management and Response</i>) & building a culture of prevention in and through schools)
Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Despite having the guidelines, the Government faces challenges in implementing child protection in emergencies as a central focus of their operations• ODPEM does not keep data on the effectiveness of the <i>Guidelines for Child-Friendly Disaster Management and Response</i>
Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ODPEM, through strengthened legislation, coordinates local & international actors• ODPEM draws from technical working groups (e.g. education)• Child protection actors are able to perform their roles during a disaster

Sub-Regional Consultation: ECA

Observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varying operational practices exist across the region; there is a need for national DRM frameworks to reflect and incorporate the work of DRR actors in major sectors (education, WASH, child protection, etc) actors in each country;
Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conflicting national priorities after a disaster may result in unintentional neglect of children's needs;• There is a need to integrate child protection in emergencies as a central focus of DRR operations, integrating the views of vulnerable population into DRR plans;• There is a lack of training among staff who respond (e.g. psychosocial support)
Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthened data about and mapping of vulnerable population• Establish a policy to address displaced persons (e.g. OECS policy);• Equip child protection actors to perform their roles during and after a disaster

Lessons to be Applied to the Protocol



- Empowering child protection actors across all sectors
- Mainstreaming of child protection across sectors;
- Providing clearly defined roles for each actor during each phase of a disaster;
- Incorporating the voices of children and vulnerable populations in national plan and policies;
- Collaborating and communicating across all sectors is essential.

Testimony on Child Protection in Emergencies

- Anguilla – Chanelle Petty Barrett, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Education
- Dominica – Melina Channelle

Recommendations

- Three (3) recommendations for the incorporation of child protection into the Roadmap