



Child Friendly Spaces in Emergencies

Summary of Lessons Learned Review

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Purpose	5
The Risk of Violence Against Children in Emergencies	5
Key Findings	7
Moving Forward	10



Purpose

The purpose of the review on Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) is to:

- a) identify and promote key lessons to improve the quality, impact, and reach of CFS implemented by Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in emergencies related programming;
- b) contribute to global learning and evidence on the implementation of CFS in emergencies; and to
- c) provide a basis for the development of tools to help translate the lessons learned into practical and concrete action by National Societies.

Psychosocial trauma and violence (gender-based physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, and through deprivation) against girls and boys, including the most marginalized, have consistently been identified in emergencies around the world. As such, CFS are a common approach used to reduce the risk of these vulnerabilities. In particular, CFS often address one or more of the following three specific objectives:

- a) protection from risk;
- b) promotion of psychosocial well-being; and
- c) strengthening of community child protection capacities.

The Risk of Violence Against Children in Emergencies



PHYSICAL ASSAULT



PSYCHOLOGICAL AND
VERBAL ABUSE



TRAFFICKING



CHILD, EARLY AND
FORCED MARRIAGE



CHILD LABOUR

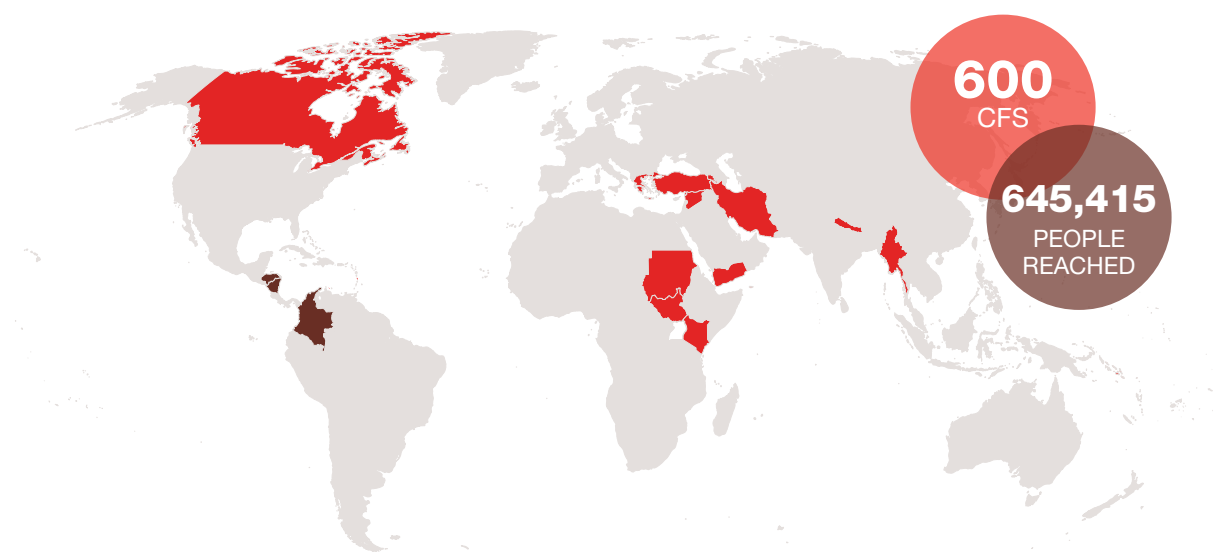
Beginning in the early 2000's some National Societies, in particular in the Middle East and North Africa region, began using CFS. However, the use of CFS in emergencies began to scale up at the start of the new decade.

The report draws on a number of methods. In particular: a review of existing literature on the lessons learned around the use of CFS in emergencies; several in-person technical visits to project sites; detailed scoping reviews, conducted by external consultants, from five National Societies; and lessons learned and themes from thirteen case studies, representing National Societies from all five IFRC Regions, developed to complement this report. The case studies reflect the experience from approximately 600 CFS delivered between the start of 2011 and the end of 2016.

REGION	NATIONAL SOCIETY	NUMBER OF CFS
AFRICA	Kenya	30
	South Sudan	3
	Sudan	11
AMERICAS	Canada	5
ASIA PACIFIC	Myanmar	1
	Nepal	12
	Solomon Islands	1
ASIA PACIFIC	Armenia	3
	Greece	4
	Turkey	32
MENA	Iran	416
	Syria	46
	Yemen	40
TOTAL	13 National Societies	600 CFS

Key Findings

- 1 There is a wide scope of National Societies, across geographic regions, that are implementing CFS in emergencies.



COLOMBIA, NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS
CONDUCTED SCOPING REVIEWS AND ARE SEEKING TO DELIVER CFS IN THE FUTURE

2. National Societies implement CFS in a host of emergency situations including migration crises and natural disasters.



population movement

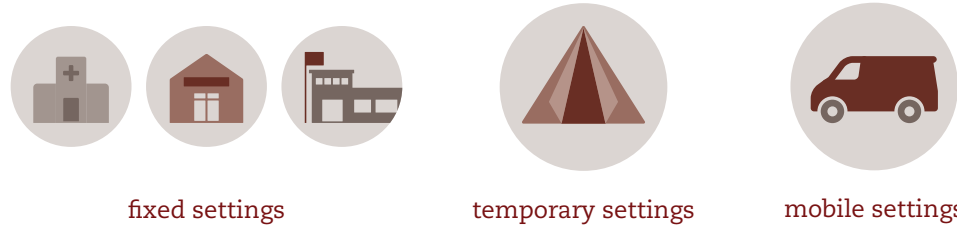


natural disasters



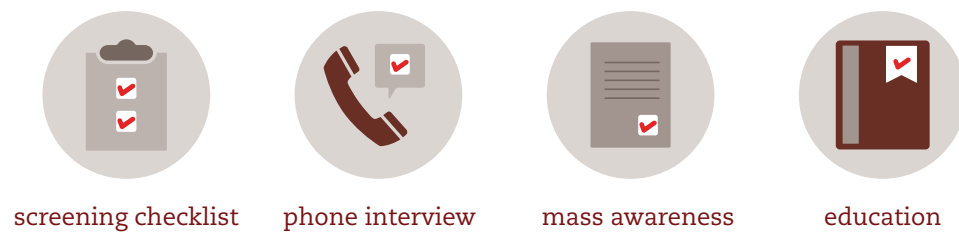
protracted crisis

3. In most situations CFS are attached to settings where National Societies are already delivering services to communities.



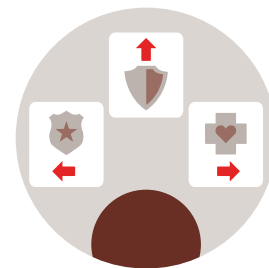
4. National Societies have a number added values for protecting children, through CFS, in emergencies including their ability to reach hard-to-access locations where few, if any, other agencies are present.

5. Internal protection systems, such as child protection policies and screening mechanisms, are necessary.



6. Assessments are conducted unevenly.

7. Identifying and communicating referral pathways needs more attention from the start of a project.



8. Creating a safe physical space within CFS is important to avoid injuries and reduce the risk of unintended accidents.
9. In order to respond quickly and efficiently using CFS in emergencies, it is imperative that National Societies prepare in advance.
10. More can be done to conduct outreach to parents, local leaders, and health and education providers on psychosocial or child protection issues.
11. The duration of CFS projects is very different across National Societies based on the local circumstances.
12. National Societies, for the most part, have pursued partnerships with governments, UN agencies and NGOs to enhance their delivery of CFS.
13. Outcomes, outputs, and theories of change for CFS projects are generally not clearly articulated in CFS projects.
14. Training for volunteers and staff is built into virtually all of the CFS projects as an essential component.
15. Most National Societies do collect gender and age dis-aggregated data on the children who participate in CFS.
16. In some locations particular efforts have been made to make CFS accessible for girls and boys with disabilities but more can be done to protect these children and also unaccompanied, separated, and orphaned children and those living on the streets.

Moving Forward

Based on the findings of this review, a number of suggested actions are listed below to strengthen the implementation of CFS by National Societies in emergencies.

#	SUGGESTED ACTIONS	DETAILS
1	Develop and implement internal child protection systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that a National Society child protection policy is in place to outline the specific roles and responsibilities of all personnel that interact with children b) Have all personnel should sign the policy and receive an orientation to the policy c) Screen all personnel that interact with children including through conducting personal reference checks, conducting a criminal record check, and requiring personnel to clearly state if they have any criminal record, especially involving children
2	Conduct assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) During an emergency, conduct an assessment before the initiation of a CFS b) Use globally accepted standardized tools to conduct assessments c) Prior to emergencies, conduct detailed CFS scoping reviews as part of pre-emergency planning
3	Develop systems around referral pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure a referral pathway for concerns of violence and psychosocial support is defined, documented, and made accessible to all Red Cross Red Crescent personnel before a CFS is implemented b) Orient all personnel and parents on the referral pathway c) Visibly post in CFS a poster that provides details, in a child friendly way, from whom and where girls and boys can access help
4	Ensure safety within CFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure the physical space within CFS is made safe from potential injuries b) Require all adults that enter CFS to sign-in and sign-out and to have only supervised interaction with children c) Wherever possible, implement security measures such as having security guards, cameras, etc.
5	Enhance pre-positioning capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Pre-position materials, like tents, toys and educational material, as part of local DM warehousing
6	Engage communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Prioritize reaching out to parents, professionals and community leaders to engage them in child protection solutions specific to CFS and as part of more holistic community-based approaches
7	Develop phase-out plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop a phase-out / hand-over plan for CFS at the very start of the project; adjust the plan as the CFS progresses
8	Create formal partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Seek formal partnerships with relevant government ministries, schools, NGOs, and UN agencies to strengthen National Society interventions
9	Put in place measurements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Define specific outcome and output measurements, for the CFS and for engagement with parents, professionals and community leaders; draw on existing global tools such as from UNICEF b) Articulate a clear theory of change
10	Train volunteers and other personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure all personnel supporting CFS and community engagement activities complete a standardized and comprehensive training to cover basic considerations to achieve quality standards when setting up CFS
11	Include gender and age perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Collect and analyse sex and age disaggregated data b) Consider gender-specific needs as part of all CFS related activities c) Address the needs of adolescents and not only younger children
12	Enhance protection systems when working with children at high risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Put in place systems for children with disabilities to access CFS; take deliberate steps to seek out children with disabilities b) Have clear protocols and safeguards such as referral mechanisms for health, psychosocial, shelter, and protection issues when working with unaccompanied, separated, orphaned or street children

The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Humanity The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

The vision of the IFRC is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view of preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.
