

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE DISASTER RISKS REDUCTION AND CHILD SAFETY

Save the Children Thailand Programme Office, 2013-2014

OUR PROGRAMME AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES

Save the Children as a 'dual mandate' agency, gives equal priority to both humanitarian and development work. In Thailand, Save the Children has carried out emergency responses since the Andaman Tsunami in 2004. Our responses aim at the most vulnerable children and families coping with, among other issues, poverty, disabilities, migration, and HIV. We also help communities better prepare for future disasters. In the 2011 Bangkok flood, Save the Children carried a multi-sector response covering non-food items, child protection, education, water sanitation and hygiene, food security and livelihood, as well as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Most recently, the emergency response team responded to the refugee camp fire at Ban Mae Surin in Mae Hong Son province and floods affecting migrant communities in Mae Sot, Tak province.



Save the Children values DRR and disaster preparedness as part of our support to help disaster-affected children and families prepare better for future disasters. We are implementing a DRR programme in 4 disaster-prone provinces of Thailand based on our experiences in the 2004 Tsunami. In 2014, we are hoping to pioneer models for urban disaster response through piloting urban DRR programming, urban emergency cash transfer, as well as introduce child safety projects in urban areas.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES

Save the Children prepositioned approximately 800 household hygiene kits in Mae Sot, a border town with Myanmar which can reach up to 3,200 people at the onset of any emergency within 72 hours. Our local staffs are trained on humanitarian response and ready to be deployed 24/7, while international technical experts are on stand-by to deploy upon request of the Thailand Programme Office. Furthermore, through our partnership with the corporate sector, Save the Children will mobilise more prepositioned relief items, such as water purifying sachets to be used during emergencies.

DISASTER RISKS REDUCTION

Save the Children has strengthened its partnership with provincial Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) and the Education Service Area Office (ESAO) through the current DRR awareness raising initiative. While engaging these provincial partners and building their capacity, the project will strategically influence their policy and practices on DRR in schools and communities.

Save the Children works through the ESAOs in order to identify and coordinate with vulnerable schools in their respective areas. Educators in the ESAOs are trained as trainers on facilitating DRR awareness raising activities in schools for building the capacity of the school teachers. Save the Children will coordinate with the ESAO to document lessons learned from the teachers training and school activities in order to develop a teacher training manual on integrating DRR into school curriculums.

CHILD SAFETY

Save the Children will advocate and campaign for better child protection practices by encouraging direct input from children and teachers into the development and implementation of the national curriculum on DRR and child safety. Through social media, mass media, and joint collaboration with celebrities, we will pass on 'safety and preparedness' messages that will help create resilient communities. We will also promote and create opportunities for children to produce their own media in advocating disaster risk reduction and safety measures in their daily lives.

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