



TITLE: DRC: Helping children in times of disaster

## CONTEXT

In the Est of the DRC, when disasters strike, children miss out on schooling, nutrition and health care, and may lose access to essential protection and social services while living in dangerous environments. In some places, this is particularly true for girls and children with disabilities. Children from families living in poverty are also more affected by disasters and climate change.

Floods, droughts, pests, cyclones, biochemical spills and other hazards are increasing in intensity – even as the COVID-19 pandemic has made disaster preparedness and recovery more difficult, according to UNICEF.

This will require priority action to ensure that communities and countries are prepared, protected and resilient.

Children and young people are not just victims of disasters. They have a leading role to play in reducing risk, working with governments and humanitarian organizations. They have critical skills, lived experiences and are proposing solutions.

Integrating child-specific interventions into disaster risk reduction and climate change policies – including by involving young people – ensures that risks to their survival and well-being are systematically addressed. Climate action that protects children protects us all.

## THE PROJECT

South Kivu is a region of the Democratic Republic of Congo that is regularly affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, and epidemics. These disasters have devastating consequences for populations, particularly children, who are often the most vulnerable. Identified issues are loss of property and housing, displacement and family separation, limited access to basic services, psychological trauma, lack of resources.

The Rapid Response Project for Children in Disasters is an initiative that aims to provide immediate and effective assistance to children affected by natural or man-made disasters in the eastern DRC, in the province of South Kivu.

## OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this project is to protect the lives and dignity of children and provide them with the means necessary to overcome the consequences of the disaster.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Provide food and nutrition assistance: Provide food and nutritional supplements to children affected by the disaster to prevent malnutrition and related health problems.

Provide shelter and equipment: Provide tents, blankets and other essential equipment to help children protect themselves from the elements and maintain their dignity.

Provide health care: Provide emergency health care and medical treatment to children injured or sick due to the disaster.

Provide education and recreational activities: Provide educational and recreational activities to help children distract themselves and regain a sense of normalcy.

### RESPONSE STRATEGIES

Rapid needs assessment: Conduct a rapid needs assessment of children affected by the disaster to identify priorities and immediate needs.

Resource mobilization: Mobilize resources to meet children's needs, including funds, equipment and personnel.

Coordination with local authorities: Coordinate efforts with local authorities to ensure that interventions are effective and meet the authorities' priorities.

Awareness raising and training: Raise awareness among children and adults about the risks and consequences of the disaster and train them in prevention and preparedness measures.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

Reduced mortality and morbidity: Reduce child mortality and morbidity by providing health care and medical treatment.

Improved food security: Improve food security for children by providing food and nutritional supplements.

Reduced vulnerability: Reduce children's vulnerability by providing them with equipment and shelter to protect them from harsh weather and hazards.

Promoting resilience: Promoting children's resilience by providing them with educational and recreational activities to help them overcome the consequences of the disaster.

In summary, the Children's Disaster Response Project is an initiative that aims to provide immediate and effective assistance to children affected by natural or man-made disasters. The main objectives of this project are to protect the lives and dignity of children and provide them with the means to overcome the consequences of the disaster.

TARGET: 40 children

BUDGET: 10.000 USD

