



Disaster Risk Reduction with a Human Face

Mukesh Puri & Srdjan Stojanovic
UNICEF India

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ACQUANTUM HUMANITARIAN



Child's Needs and Rights

•Children in disasters have the same needs and rights as children in stable countries and situations.

•UNICEF's role: protect children and women, ensure application of international standards, provide assistance.

•The rights approach includes children's right to health, education, water, leisure and participation, as well as Child Protection

•Protecting children and their rights is an obligation, not an optional addition to humanitarian action.

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ACQUANTUM HUMANITARIAN



How Do we Address Vulnerabilities of Children

•Children and women suffer most from disasters - displacement, physical injuries, communicable diseases, hunger, malnutrition, sexual abuse, disruption of education and psycho-social trauma.

•In risk reduction efforts, the specific risks that exist for children and their caregivers need to be minimized.

•Understand the threats to children: underlying (poverty, absence of education) and specific threats.

•Children's and women's voices to be heard and their concerns incorporated

•To counter those risks –Enhance capacities; participation encouraged, e.g. family and community mobilization, national institutions, CBOs. Awareness and measures!

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ACQUANTUM HUMANITARIAN



UNICEF India Approach to Risk Reduction

1. Empowering the vulnerable people - Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP)
2. Disseminating Information - An Effective Communication Strategy
3. Learning from the Response in earlier disasters to reduce the risks, BBB opportunities
4. Advocacy efforts and building partnerships

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ACQUANTUM HUMANITARIAN



CBDP- West Bengal

•The objective: to prepare vulnerable communities to cope with disasters minimising loss of life/properties.

•Strategy: Participatory learning and action; Village-wise action plan; Family and child survival kits prepared, important documents protected; Task forces trained; Pregnant women provided extra medical care; use of self-help groups

•Results: CBDP plans prepared in 1,500 villages; Loss of lives/property minimised; disease outbreak controlled; Gram Panchayat self-reliant in meeting immediate needs; CBDP promoted by State Government

•Important achievement: Mindset Shift : Focus has shifted from expecting relief to prepare and respond; Capacity building and mobilization of women ; Shared ownership with PRI/NGOs.

•Integration in development planning to make CBDP sustainable.

For emergency relief
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
আসন্ন বিপত্তিতে



Avian Influenza - Communication Strategy

•Focus on backyard poultry farmers and their families.

•Based on an understanding of barriers to behavior change, social practices and norms and community systems around poultry.

•Outbreak response motivates communities to seek treatment.

•General population – practise hygiene behaviors to prepare poultry products.

•Promotion of behaviors: e.g. discourage play with birds, washing hands etc.

For emergency relief
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
আসন্ন বিপত্তিতে



UNICEF Preparedness Efforts

- Pre-positioning of essential items/partners
- Advocacy and joint planning with partners
- Institutional partnerships
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans
- Training
- Community-based preparedness projects

For emergency relief
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
আসন্ন বিপত্তিতে



Learnings from Past Disaster for Risk Reduction- Policy Gaps and Innovations

•Schools as shelters; no alternative learning centres (e.g. Pakistan Bihar)

•No child blankets; no cooked food; no provision for psycho-social counselling or recreation

•Agree on child safe zones - school not be used by police

•Child Safe Zones- Dialogue in Nepal

•Maternity Huts in Bihar

•Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres in Bihar

For emergency relief
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
আসন্ন বিপত্তিতে



THANK YOU



සෞඛ්‍ය සේවා
සුවසේ, සුසංවර්ධන, සුවසේ, සුවසේ
සුවසේ සුවසේ

