



CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Protecting and Nurturing Children and Youth throughout Armed Conflict and Recovery

THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Throughout history, war has exacted an unacceptable toll on children and youth. During the 1990s, more than 2 million children and adolescents died as a result of armed conflicts, often deliberately targeted and murdered; a much greater number have suffered physical violence and psychological trauma. They lost their homes, neighborhoods and friends, the opportunity to play and study, a sense of security, and with it hope for the future. Well over half a million have been separated from their families, including 300,000 boys and girls who are being used in hostilities by fighting forces.

Currently, 20 million children and adolescents are uprooted from their homes, either as refugees or internally displaced persons.



Young boy and his family reunited by IRC's Family Tracing Program in DR Congo.



IRC's "child-friendly spaces" provide children with a place to learn, play and heal.

IRC'S COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In 1997, to strengthen its ability to respond to the complex needs of children and youth in conflict and post-conflict settings, IRC established a special unit for children affected by armed conflict, now named Child and Youth Protection and Development (CYPD). The technical unit's mission is to ensure the protection and development of children and youth from the earliest stages of an emergency through post-conflict and recovery. To promote the highest standards for young people, the unit provides policies and guidelines, training, and other direct support to IRC programs, conducts field research, and does advocacy and public information.

IRC'S CURRENT CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Community-based participatory and holistic children and youth programs in 20 countries include:

- Formal and non-formal education
- Registration, emergency care, tracing and family reunification of separated children
- Interim care, rehabilitation and community reintegration of former child soldiers
- Psychosocial care and protection
- Life skills, recreational and cultural activities, economic and leadership development for youth.

WHERE DOES IRC HAVE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH?

Azerbaijan • Afghanistan • Burundi • Chad • Chechnya/Ingushetia • Congo-Brazzaville • Democratic Republic of Congo • Ethiopia • Guinea • Indonesia • Ivory Coast • Kenya • Liberia • Pakistan • Sierra Leone • North and South Sudan • Thailand • Tanzania • Uganda

WHAT DOES CYPD DO?

1. DIRECT SUPPORT TO FIELD PROGRAMS

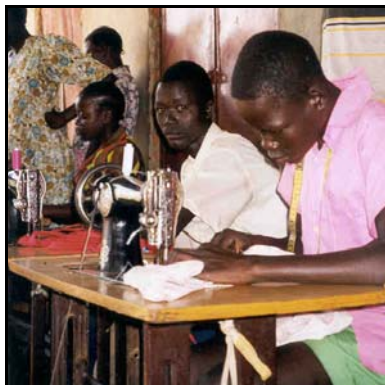
- Technical support through day-to-day email and phone calls and field visits
- Program development: situation analysis; program design, review and monitoring and evaluation
- Human resources support: help identify and recruit staff; maintain roster of candidates; identify consultants for special projects
- Technical material: respond to field requests for technical resources; identify and send useful literature
- Financial support: funding for pilot programs; work with the development department to secure grants; advocate with donors on behalf of field programs

2. STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Organize and conduct internal training of IRC's and other agencies staff
- Support professional development and staff exchanges
- Support external training opportunities

"IRC found my family, and took me home to see my parents, sisters and brothers. Everyone was so happy to see me ... The IRC gave me school supplies and a school uniform, and I was able to sit for my examination. I was very happy when I passed the exam, and now I can join Grade 7."

A thirteen-year-old boy, a former child soldier who had been abducted by the LRA, Northern Uganda



Tailoring training for formerly abducted children in Northern Uganda

3. POLICY, GUIDELINES AND TECHNICAL MATERIAL

- Develop policy and guidelines, training manuals, assessment and monitoring tools and other technical material
- Collaborate with UN, academic institutions and others in elaborating relevant policies on child and youth protection and development

4. DEVELOPING EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING

- Conduct action-oriented field research projects in collaboration with academic and other partners
- Disseminate and use research data and good practice to improve humanitarian response
- Participate in inter-agency networks and working groups: Psychosocial academic/ practitioners working group; Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, NGO Committee on UNICEF Sub-Working Group on Children Affected by Armed Conflict and Violence, Inter-Agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children

5. ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Advocate on behalf of conflict-affected children and youth globally as well as in specific emergencies
- Participate in targeted campaigns in support of child and youth rights: education in emergencies, psychosocial programming, etc.
- Disseminate and respond to requests for information from the media, governments, UN bodies and others

Setting Higher Standards through Experience and Innovation

For more information, contact:

Child and Youth Protection and Development Unit - International Rescue Committee
122 East 42nd Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10168-1289 • Fax: (212) 551-3185 • www.theIRC.org

Jane Warburton, Director

Tel: (1) 212 551 2920 / email:jane.w@theirc.org

Rebecca Winthrop, Education Technical Advisor

Tel: (1) 212 551 3049/ email:rebecca.w@theirc.org

Sarah Smith, Education Program Manager

Tel: (1) 212 551 3037/ email:sarah.s@theirc.org

Marie de la Soudière, Special Advisor

Tel: (1) 212 551 3004 / email:marie.d@theirc.org

Severine Chevrel, Program Manager

Tel: (1) 212 551 2738/ email:severine.c@theirc.org

Allison Anderson, INEE Focal Point for Education Minimum Standard

Tel: (1) 212 551 3107/ email:allison.a@theirc.org