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TRAININGS REPORT

Gender & Child Cell, National Disaster Management Authority

INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY:

A Training Manual on Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) for Separated, Unaccompanied and Missing Children in Disasters was developed for capacity building of the stakeholders. Following the Training Manual approval, trainings were organized on 'Separated, Unaccompanied and Missing Children in Disaster' by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in Quetta, Karachi and Peshawar. The trainings were attended by the relevant stakeholders i.e. representatives from Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) Disaster Management Authority (FDMA), Social Welfare Department, Health Department, Home Department and Civil Society Organizations etc.



Trainings were held in Quetta, Karachi and Peshawar. Quetta training had 16 participants including 6 female and 10 males. In Karachi training, there were 22 participants, including 10 females and 12 males. The training in Peshawar was attended by 25 participants including 4 females.

During the trainings basic understanding about Separated, Unaccompanied and Missing Children with particular reference to emergencies was developed. Participants were facilitated in assessing the child protection issues, specifically, the subject matter issues in emergencies situations within the context of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

TRAINING DESIGN/METHODOLOGY

Through the process, the trainer used the interactive/participatory approach keeping in view stimulating the learning environment more participatory and active. This approach included group work, plenary discussion, questions & answers and energizers.



OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

- 1) To understand the relevant knowledge and skill for dealing the Separated,

Unaccompanied and Missing Children and their issues in Emergencies. Participants will be able to identify, register, record and establish Referral Mechanism for dealing with the subject issues.

- 2) To be able to make temporary care arrangements, its principles for placement with a regular follow-up and monitoring.
- 3) To build understanding about the techniques of tracing families and tracing missing children and their reunification and to maintain regular follow ups with family after reunification.
- 4) Make long term arrangements for Separated, Unaccompanied and Missing children.

TRAINING PROCESS

The training process included introduction of participants, trainers, participants' expectations, course contents and evaluation including pre and post tests.

PARTICIPANTS

In Balochistan-Quetta training held at Serena from January, 19-20, 2016 and 16 participants including 6 female and 10 males attended. In Sindh-Karachi training held at Days Inn Hotel from January, 21-22, 2016 and there were 22 participants, including 10 females and 12 males. The training in Peshawar held at from 3-4 February, 2016 and was attended by 25 participants including 4 females. The representatives from Home Departments, PDMA's, DDMA's, Social Welfare and Development Sector participated in the event across Pakistan in 4 provinces.



DESCRIPTION

CHILD RIGHTS

The first session focused on child rights. The trainer involved the participants in the discussion by asking them about their concept of child rights. This included questions on the kind of environment the participants would prefer for their child to grow up in; what sort of a person would the participants want their child to be? These questions elicited various responses and gave an overview of the existing perception of child rights among the participants.



After getting feedback from the participants the session shifted to the discussion on child rights as envisaged by the UNCRC, the international child rights treaty that Pakistan has ratified. This included an overview on the history and basic principles of UNCRC and Pakistan's ratification of the UNCRC which resulted in initiatives at the national and provincial level including enactment of laws related to child rights and child protection. The session also laid stress on the distinction between child rights and human rights and the need for an international instrument for dealing with children.

CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES:

Participants identified various definitions of disaster and emergency with examples such as earthquakes, floods, blasts and conflicts etc. Some of the recent major disasters in Pakistan were also shared by the participants with examples like flood, earthquake and the ongoing emergency situations due to militancy etc.

With a focus on disasters, vulnerabilities of human beings specifically children and their protection in emergencies was discussed in detail.

It was shared in the plenary discussion that there is a need of prevention and response which is called 'Child Protection in Emergencies'.

The major child protection issues in general as well particularly within the context of emergencies were shared with the participants. Various types and definition of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect were identified by the participants during the discussion in local context.

The main guiding principles of child protection in emergencies such as family unity, best interest of the child, child's opinion, do no harm, non-discrimination; psychological support and special needs of girls were also shared with the participants with examples.

INTRODUCTION TO SEPARATED AND UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN IN DISASTERS:

Detailed discussion was held about pre-emptive measures that can be taken when an emergency strikes in order to minimize separation of children from their families. A list of measure for prevention of separation of children in emergencies was shared with the participants.

Participants were also informed that the concerned authorities at the point of origin should have appropriate knowledge on child protection issues and identification of the respective children for the special protection needs. Various definitions, registration and monitoring of missing, separated, unaccompanied and accompanied children were shared. The participants were also oriented about the basic steps for the protection of separated and unaccompanied children.

While discussing the reunification of a separated child, participants were oriented that separated children must be provided with services aimed at reuniting with their parents or primary legal or customary care giver as quickly as possible.

INTERIM CARE:

While answering the question that if it is not possible to immediately identify or reunite the child with the family? It was responded that all efforts should be made to identify a family based care option, such as relatives, foster care givers or other members of the community and should be based on child's best interest with regular follow up but the ultimate objective will be the reunification.

The key principles for placement of unaccompanied children in an interim care were also shared with the participants keeping in view the best interest of the child.

While discussing the interim care it was shared that a child should placed with a family which would ideally be willing to take care of the child but it must be ensured that the family would be willing to give the child back to the parents if they are located.

Participants were briefed about the documentation and monitoring requirements while keeping a child in interim care. Regular monitoring must be ensured and if any kind of abuse observed, that must be reported and referred to provide prompt actions.

FAMILY TRACING/ REUNIFICATION:

In a plenary discussion, the participants were informed that with reference to an accompanied child the ultimate objective should be family reunification. All possible efforts should be carried out involving different relevant stakeholders to identify and verify the child's family in a formal way.

The participants were informed that reunification is the process of bringing together the child and family. In order to minimize further distress resulting from a period of prolongs separation, it is important that family reunification occurs without any delay.

During the discussion the following steps were identified by the participants for the safe reunification of an unaccompanied child.

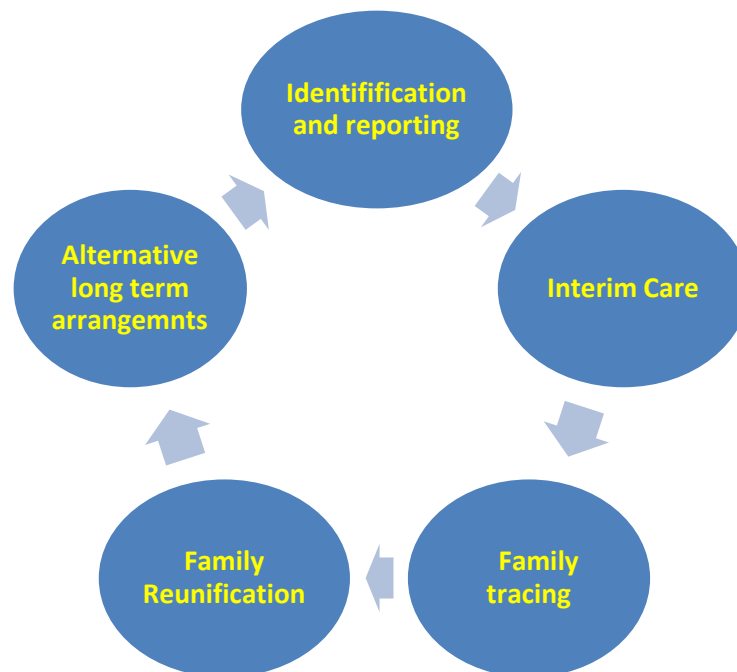
- I. Proof of claim
- II. Community verification
- III. Consent of the child
- IV. Involving local administration
- V. Proper handing/ taking over documentation

Participants were informed that even after reunification, the child need special psycho social support, so s/he should be monitored regularly after reunification and report if a child needs any assistance and should be provided with the relevant need.

While answering the question of long term institutionalization of an unaccompanied child, the best long-term solution for an unaccompanied child should be made based on best interest of the child and depend on the specific merits of any particular case. It should be solely done through court procedure in accordance with the laws and in the best interest of the child.

CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

While describing the case management system, the participants briefed about the CMS, with the help of the diagram below. The diagram shows the different steps for case management system of separated and unaccompanied children during emergencies.



SUGGESTIONS /RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants showed their satisfaction with respect to achievement of the training objectives. Through evaluation of the training and participants' feedback at the end showed that the training course is responsive to the need of the trainees and it is very useful for their work on child protection in emergencies.

The participants suggested that such trainings should be provided to all stakeholders continuously with follow up. They stated that the duration of the training is very short and suggested to be extended for three days next time.

Program: One Day Training about SOPs on Separated, Unaccompanied and Missing Children in Disasters

S. No	Session Description	Resources Required	Time (hrs)
1	Welcome and Introductions	Flipchart Flash cards Markers/pens Masking tap Writing pads	0900-0930
2	Objectives of the Training/ Orientation Session	Power point	09:30- 09:40
3	What are Child Rights and Child Protection: Developing basic understanding	Power point presentation	09:40- 10:00
4	Understanding child protection in emergencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection situation in Pakistan in emergency context • Guiding principles 	Flipchart Flash cards Markers/pens Masking tap Writing pads	10:00-1100
TEA/Coffee BREAK			
5	Introduction to Separated and Unaccompanied Children in Disasters	Power point presentation	1115-11:30
6	Group Work Identification of Separated and Unaccompanied Children	Flipchart Flash cards Hand-out material Markers/pens Masking tap Writing papers	11:30- 13:00
LUNCH/Prayer BREAK			
7	Interim Care: Principles for Placement of Unaccompanied Children in Interim Care	Flipchart Flash cards Hand-out material Markers/pens Masking tap Writing papers	1400-14:45
8	Family Tracing	Power point presentation	14:45- 15:15
9	Family Reunification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps in reunification • Alternative Long-term Arrangements • Case management 	Power point presentation and Q&A	15:15- 16:15
10	Concluding remarks/Certificate Distribution/ Vote of Thanks		16:15- 16:30

THE END