



Parenting Month Panel:

Supporting Parents in Crisis

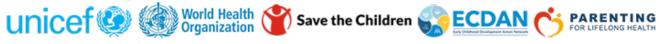
and Humanitarian Contexts

Online Panel Discussion 20 June 2023, 12:00 -13:30 UTC/GMT

With Speakers from:







With Panellists from:



CUNICER



Housekeeping

This presentation is being recorded.

Because this presentation is in webinar format, you will not be able to unmute yourself or turn your camera on.

Please use the Q&A box to leave any questions you may have for our speakers and panellists. There will only be time to answer a limited number of questions, so please feel free to use the upvote button.

If we do not get to your question, you can find answers on the GPI website later.





In support of Content of

Parenting Month Panel:

Supporting Parents in Crisis

and Humanitarian Contexts

With Speakers from:







With Panellists from:





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Introducing Our Speakers



Sabine Rakotomalala

World Health Organization, Global Initiative to Support Parents



Dr Isang Awah

Head of Advocacy

Global Parenting Initiative, Parenting for Lifelong Health



Mari Ullmann

Technical Advisor, Parenting in Crisis

Global Initiative to Support Parents



Dr Caoimhe Nic a Bháird

MHPSS and Child Protection Advisor

UNICEF



Rebecca Smith

Global Head of Child Protection Programmes

Save the Children International



Context and Research



Dr Isang Awah Head of Advocacy





Mari Ullmann

Technical Advisor, Parenting in Crisis



Supporting Parents in Crisis

and Humanitarian Contexts:

Context and research



Context

1 billion

children experience violence each year (Hillis, 2019), and many further in families struggling with the challenges of parenting.

43%

of children under 5 years old living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are at risk of not achieving their developmental potential (Black et al., 2017).



Consequences of adverse childhood experiences

- Poor mental health
- Poor child development, school failure
- Alcohol and drugs
- Youth violence & risky behaviour
- Poor maternal & child health & nutrition
- Inter-generational transmission of violence, offending

All these outcomes are hugely costly to multiple systems

Good news: Much evidence & knowledge on how to improve parenting skills - so a **logical choice for early intervention**

WHO/ UNICEF: INSPIRE (2016)





Why support parents?

improving

growth and

nutritional

status



optimizing early childhood development



improving positive interactions of caregivers and adolescents



interrupting the cycle of violence and neglect, including perpetration of future violence



enhancing mothers' and children's mental health



increasing attendance at routine health visits



promoting positive social norms about protecting and nurturing children



What are parenting programmes?

- Structured intervention directed at parents/caregivers
- Aim to improve parent-child interaction and the quality of parenting a child receives -- and so reduce harsh & abusive parenting and child problem behaviour.
- Focus on parents learning & practising new skills and behaviours
- Most evidence-based programmes are based on similar content & principles, e.g., Parent Management Training, Día a Día, Strengthening Families, Triple-P, Parenting for Lifelong Health.







A rise in humanitarian crises



- Increase in incidents of natural disasters, health emergencies, and armed conflicts
- 108.4 million forcibly displaced people worldwide (UNHCR)
- 35.3 million refugees (UNHCR)
- 62.5 million internally displaced people
- 76% hosted in low- and middle-income countries
- Globally, an estimated 268 million children and adolescents across 73 countries are affected by crises
- Out of the 224 million crisis-affected children and adolescents of school age, about 72 million (32%) are out of school.



Parenting during a crisis

- During humanitarian crises, families experience and witness death, displacement, hardships and financial stress, separation, and very often, violence
- Parents and caregivers must provide 24/7 care, alongside increased stress, fear, and trauma
- There's a lack of accessible services
- Exposure to trauma, hardships, and poor parental mental health usually lead to changes in parenting behaviours.







Children pay the highest price of humanitarian crises



'Armed conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies expose millions of girls and boys to unthinkable forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.' https://www.unicef.org/protection/protecting-children-in-humanitarian-action

Families can be supported with interventions

- COVID-19 Parenting Response
- Parenting in Conflict Resources
- Parenting in Climate Crisis Resources
- UNODC parenting in crisis booklet
- MHPSS Resources etc.
 - Parenting tip sheets
 - Social media squares
 - Printable PDFs
 - Videos
 - Audio messages
 - Quiz
 - QR codes
 - Faith-based resources







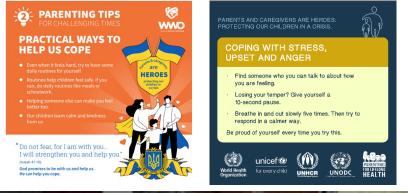
Feedback on the Ukraine Parenting

resources

The Wartime parenting tips that the volunteers have shared with us have been so helpful to me:

I began breathing calmly in harsh emotional moments, and my kids felt it as I was learning to keep calm. I began doing physical exercise daily, and this helped us focus on something else rather than on hard news. We are practising and praising our kids for their achievements.

MOTHER, WESTERN UKRAINE







Further research needed



- Parenting interventions effective in supporting parents and caregivers, and skilling them to support children
- Evidence from humanitarian settings is limited
- Research in humanitarian contexts is especially challenging
- Strategies could be adopted to address challenges associated with research in humanitarian settings
- Need to build a robust evidence base for interventions that can be delivered at scale during crises.



Developing a global agenda to support parenting in crisis











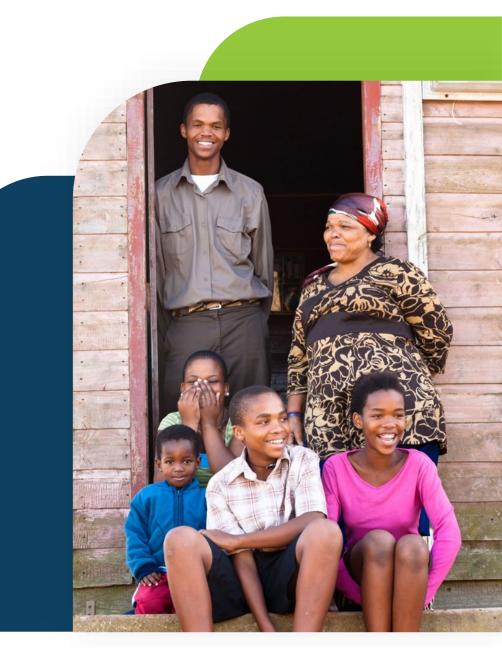
Core questions

1. What are the needs of parents, caregivers and their children at different stages / within different types of emergencies?

- In acute onset or protracted crisis
- In conflict, displacement, disaster
- For target populations (adolescent parents, children with disabilities)

2. Which policies, services and programs are effective in meeting these needs and how to deliver in crisis settings?

3. **How can we work together** across sectors to elevate this issue and make a compelling case for increasing provision of parenting support in crisis contexts?



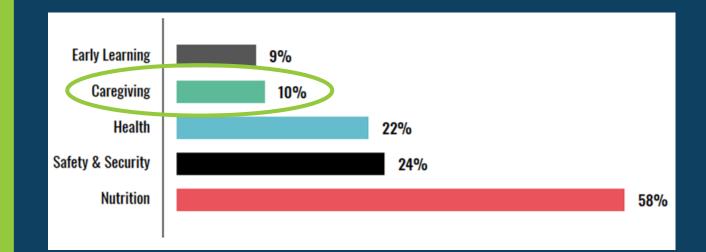
Analysis of Nurturing Care Interventions in Humanitarian Plans

Only **10%**

mentioned any interventions to support parents/caregivers

Bouchane et al. in GEM Report 2019

An analysis of humanitarian and refugee plans active in 2018 revealed that **out of 26, 11 made** *no mention* **of any component of interventions related to responsive caregiving.**





It's about motherhood. It's about love. It's about not giving up.

- Waad Al-Kattab, Syrian refugee filmmaker and parent



Emergency Support and the MHPSS package



Dr Caoimhe Nic a Bháird MHPSS and Child Protection Advisor



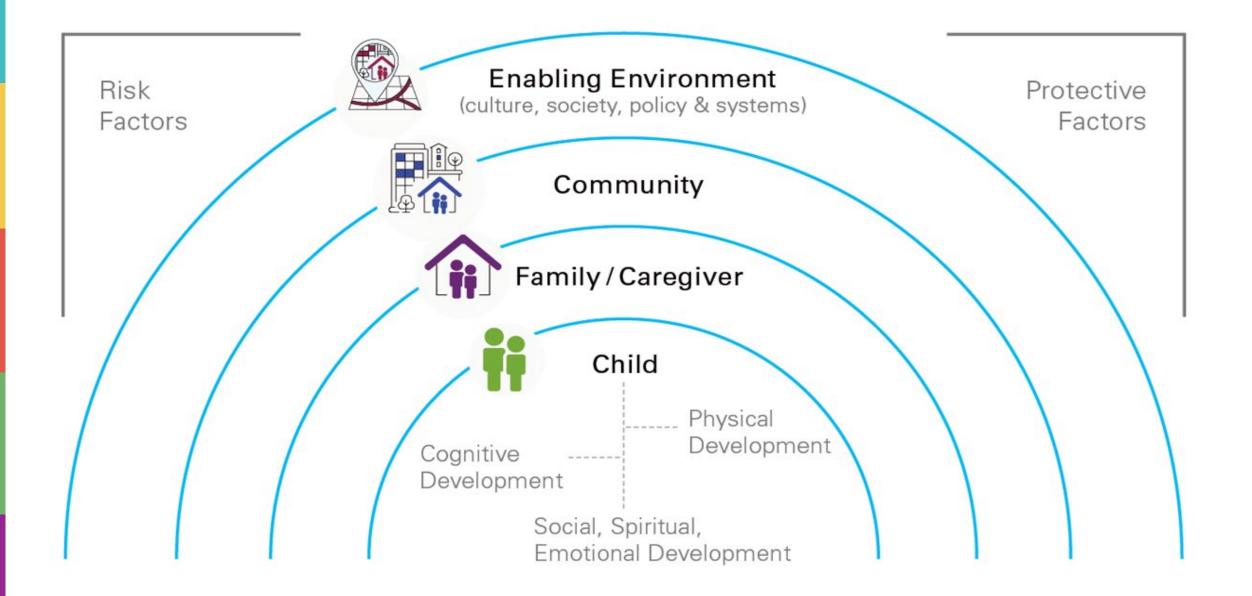
Care for the caregiver, care for the child

Protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Caregivers in Emergencies

Dr Caoimhe Nic a Bháird, Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF



unicef



Source: UNICEF Global Multisectoral Operational Framework for MHPSS

Responsive care & nurturing environments

- Emotional security
 - Social skills
 - Coping ability



Nurturing care in humanitarian emergencies

Need to protect & promote:

- Caregivers' own wellbeing
- Their abilities / resources to support children



Addressing caregivers' MHPSS needs

MHPSS = Mental Health & Psychosocial Support

- Re-establish sense of safety
- Strengthen social connections
- Regain a sense of control
- Develop a sense of hope



• Recognizing & responding to distress in self & children



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

MINIMUM SERVICE PACKAGE





• Set of high-priority MHPSS activities

- Based on available evidence, best practice guidelines & expert consensus
- Inter-agency, inter-sectoral
- Designed to facilitate a faster, more effective, better coordinated response
- PDF or web platform at mhpssmsp.org



- 28 3.7 Promote caregivers' mental health and psychosocial wellbeing & strengthen their capacity to support children
 - 3.3 Disseminate **key MHPSS messages** (caregiver message bank)
 - 3.5 Provide **Early Childhood Development** (ECD) activities to support young children & their caregivers
 - 3.6 Provide **group activities** for children's MHPS wellbeing (with explicit caregiver component)

Section 3: MHPSS programme activities

Orient humanitarian actors and community members on MHPSS

trengt	hen self-help and provide support to communities	
3.2	Orient frontline workers and community leaders in basic psychosocial support skills	
3.1	Orient humanitarian actors and community members on MHPSS and advocate for MHPSS considerations and actions	8 🛛 🖓 😂 🍘

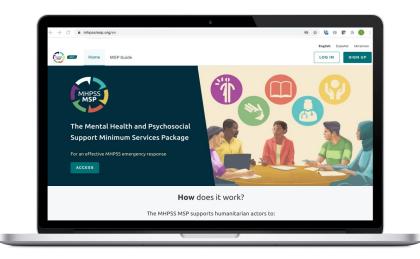
3.3	Disseminate key messages to promote mental health and psychosocial well-being	▙▣♡ॗॗऀॵॖॖॖॖॖॖॖऀॖॖॖॖ
3.4	Support new and pre-existing group-based community MHPSS activities	₿ @ ♡ © @ @ @
3.5	Provide early childhood development (ECD) activities to support young children and their caregivers	6000
3.6	Provide group activities for children's mental health and psychosocial well-being	(1)
3.7	Promote caregivers' mental health and psychosocial well- being and strengthen their capacity to support children	
3.8	Promote the mental health and psychosocial well-being of education personnel and strengthen their capacity to support children	•
3.9	Provide MHPSS through women and girls safe spaces	()
Provide	focused support for people impaired by distress or mental	health conditions
3.10	Provide mental health care as part of general health services	٨
3.11	Provide MHPSS as part of clinical care for survivors of sexual violence and intimate partner violence	€ ⑦
3.12	Initiate or strengthen the provision of psychological interventions	€ ♡ © ()
3.13	Provide MHPSS through case management services	😗 😂 🚯 😂
3.14	Protect and care for people in psychiatric hospitals and	600

For each activity:

- A brief introduction
- A checklist of actions

29

• Key guidelines, standards and tools



	ACTIVITY
Action	S
~	
~	
Additi	onal actions for consideration (depending on context and available resources
* *	
Guidel	ines, standards and tools
E	Click here to access relevant guidelines, standards and tools.

mhpssmsp.org

Thank you!

Caoimhe Nic a Bhaird <u>cnic@unicef.org</u>

MHPSS MSP Helpdesk <u>mhpss.msp@gmail.com</u>





Panel Discussion









Introducing Our Panellists



Panel Moderator

Genevieve Haupt Ronnie

Community of Practice Lead

Global Parenting Initiative, University of Cape Town



Yvonne Agengo

Senior Technical Advisor Child Protection

International Rescue Committee



Dr Aala El-Khani

Independent Consultant

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Anthony Guevara

Researcher

War Child Holland



Khayam Husain

Trustee

Karachi Relief Trust

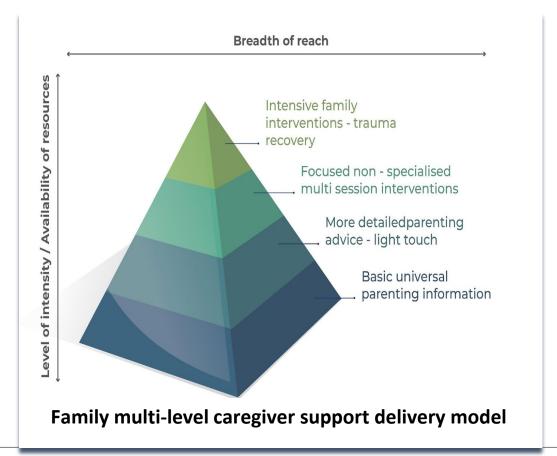


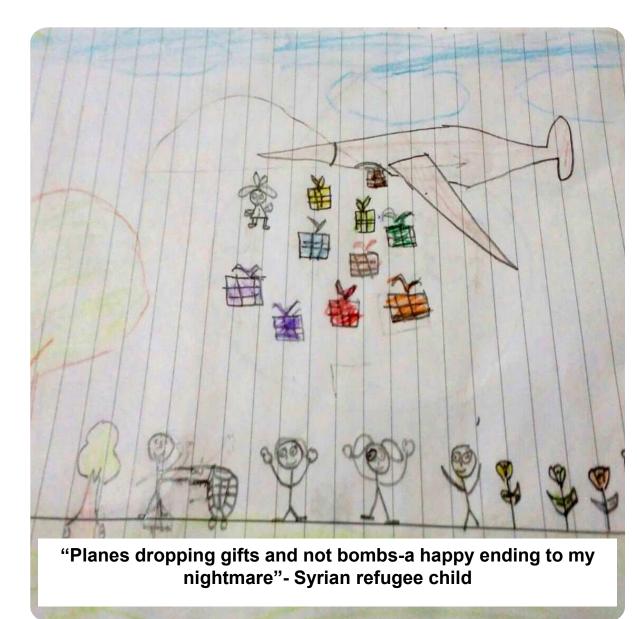
Context including, challenges and successes



Utilizing family skills resources during war and displacement

Dr Aala El-Khani United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime





MANCHESTER 1824 he University of Manchester

Karachi Relief Trust

KARACHI RELIEF TRUST

Global Parenting Initiative School-in-a-Box Program Parenting Tips

Karachi Relief Trust

KRT, a volunteer-based NGO has its forte in "filling the gaps' during disasters. This is done primarily with provision of food aid (cooked and dry rations bags), hygiene kits, and medical relief. Subsequently, post -disaster rebuilding/ rehabilitation of destroyed villages is carried out (see photo of destroyed mud house and reconstructed permanent village cluster).

Realizing that schools were closed for extended period of time, due to the Supeflood, KRT launched the "School -in-a-Box" to bring some structure in the children's lives with a "routine." Simple psychosocial activities, arts and crafts, story telling and numeracy activities were conducted.

Success was visible with children and parents staying engaged and looking forward to the daily activities. The intervention allowed KRT an opportunity to sow "seeds of change" with increased leverage over the community.

One big reason of success has been partnering with other organizations.

With the "Parenting Tips" the intervention encouraged community involvement and engagement. Since the Tips were translated in local language, the dissemination became easy.

With the infrastructure badly damaged, the biggest challenge was the logistics. Other challenges included safety and security, training volunteers and funding.

Destroyed by Flood

Reconstructed by KRT

Meeting conducted to discuss parenting tips with PTC members and parents







Karachi Relief Trust

Established 2007

Nationwide Operation

Volunteer Run

BeThere: A Caregiver Support Intervention

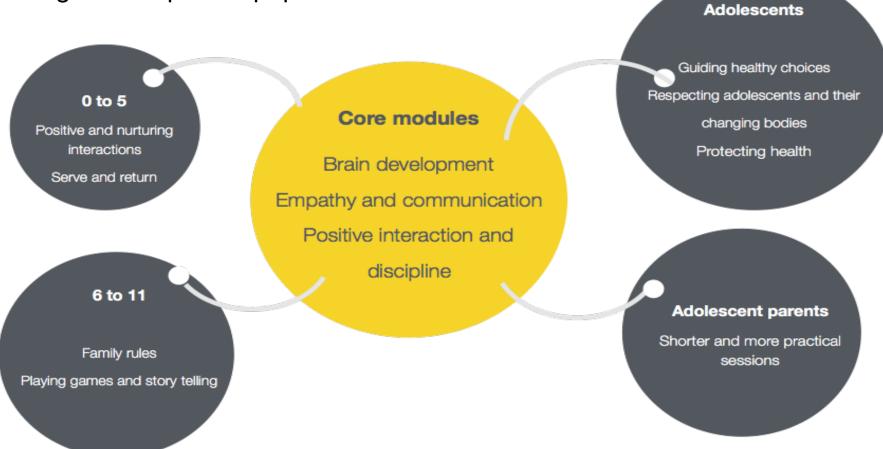
- A preventative group intervention for primary caregivers of children aged 3–12 affected by conflict and adversity, with ideally 10–12 caregivers per group
- 9 weekly sessions of up to 2 hours, combined with home practice
- Aims to strengthen parenting and child wellbeing via two pathways:
 - Indirectly, by improving the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of caregivers (sessions 1–4)
 - Directly, by strengthening knowledge and skills of evidence-based parenting methods (sessions 5–8)
- Successes and challenges: Development process, male caregiver engagement





Yvonne Agengo International Rescue Committee Snr Technical Advisor Child Protection

Context: Central African Republic Working with displaced populations





Question 2

Key considerations when working in emergency or humanitarian settings that would be useful for our work





Yvonne Agengo International Rescue Committee Snr Technical Advisor Child Protection

Key Considerations:

- 1. Parenting within a protection programme
- 2. Pre-conflict engagement of local Govt
- 3. Operational challenges, safety & security considerations
- 4. Understand social norms and context in adaptation







CONTACT US



Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, PO Box 500, A 1400 Vienna, Austria Email: unodc-ptrs@un.org Website: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-prevention-and-treatment/index.html



1824

INTERVENTIONS

ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Daily bread: a novel vehicle for dissemination and evaluation of psychological first aid for families exposed to armed conflict in Syria

A. El-Khani*, K. Cartwright, A. Redmond and R. Calam The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK Global Mostal Health (2016), 3, e15, page 1 of 7. doi:10.1017/gmb.2016.9

Key Considerations for

Humanitarian/Emergency Contexts

- Caregiver mental health and wellbeing are crucial
- This is especially the case in highly volatile settings where parents are highly distressed
- Importance demonstrated through numerous studies
- Mental health and psychosocial wellbeing are critical also for the uptake of new skills



Key Considerations in Emergencies

- 1. Ensuring the Safety and Security : Establish safe spaces, temporary shelters, or relocation sites to protect affected families, especially children from further harm.
- **1.** Immediate Psychological First Aid : Train parents on providing immediate psychological first aid to their children.
- **1. Open Communication** : Encourage parents to create an open and supportive environment for their children.
- **1. Psychoeducation** : Provide parents with information about common reactions to trauma.
- **1.** Establish Routines and Structure : Encourage parents to establish regular routines and structure.
- **1.** Identifying Signs of Distress : Train parents to recognize signs of distress in their children
- 1. Access to Support Services : Counseling and support groups, both within the humanitarian setting and in the long -term recovery phase.
- **1. Promote Resilience** : Help parents understand coping strategies and promote social connections.
- 1. Most Importantly: Engage in activities that bring JOY and a SENSE of NORMALCY.



Karachi Relief Trust

Closing reflections

What do you think are two key priorities to address in this field going forward?



Priorities for the (research) field going forward

child

- Understanding mechanisms of change
 - How do interventions achieve their effects?
- Implementation Science
 - Translating evidence-based approaches into practice
 - How can we ensure quality of care at scale?



Yvonne Agengo International Rescue Committee Snr Technical Advisor Child Protection



Key Priorities:

- Provide comprehensive services to accompany parenting support = reduce the stressors
- 2. Reaching more parents
- 3. Engaging male caregivers
- 4. Reduction of IPV/VAC cooccurrence



Going Forward: Two Key Priorities

1. Scaling Up/Capacity Building : After successfully piloting in Brep, Chitral one of the most remote areas in Northern Pakistan (see photo of the valley), scaling up strategy is required. This includes formation of Community Based Organization where the head of the CBO would be the de-facto CEO for implementation.

Integration with Existing Programs: Ownership of the program would rest with the CBO. Integrate the parenting tips program with existing humanitarian and development programs in the area. Collaborate with organizations working in child protection, education, and mental health sectors (such as CfC) to embed parenting support within their initiatives.

Organize community workshops and support groups to provide direct guidance to parents.

Adapt the parenting tips program to the local cultural context, considering cultural norms, practices, and beliefs.

2. Use Design Thinking Approach : Urban minds view rural areas as 'look down upon' and similarly, villages themselves believe that they need crutches to solve their problems. Design thinking promotes a human-centered collaborative approach. It is essential for us to involve parents in the design and development of interventions. Take their perspectives, experiences, and cultural nuances to effectively impactful solutions. The result would be more meaningful in helping their children deal with trauma after the disaster.







Audience Q&A

Please leave your questions in the Q&A box, and feel free to upvote any questions you would like answered.









Q&A

How best can we adapt this information to be appropriate in different cultural settings?

Use design thinking approach: By involving parents in the design and development of interventions, their perspectives, experiences, and cultural nuances can be effectively incorporated, resulting in more meaningful and impactful solutions for coaching parents in helping their children deal with trauma after a disaster.

Pakistan suffered from severe flooding last year. As a result, many families suffered physical and mental damage as well. How can a teacher help their students to cope up with the trauma of this incident if we don't have any support from physiatrist?

You can find relevant actions and resources in MSP Activity 3.8 *Promote the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of education personnel and strengthen their capacity to support children*

https://mhpssmsp.org/en/activity/activity-introduction-12#page-1



Is there any document or booklets that could help us as we interact with children in communities?

You might find Save the Children's online course on Psychological First Aid (PFA) for Children helpful https://kayaconnect.org/course/info.php?id=781

IFRC also has a manual on PFA for children https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PYs6MGov4BMQ24nHn1qQtP_gypgMPcuo/view

PLH Parenting tips and the wider MHPSS Message Bank also include key messages you can incorporate into your work https://app.mhpss.net/resource/cf-mhpss-message-bank and https://ap

Is there any way that a person can volunteer in Karachi Relief Trust if you live in another country?

Yes! You can reach out to them on their Facebook page or website <u>www.karachirelief.org</u>

How many families has the Karachi Relief Trust reached?

During their relief operation, they reached around 30,000 families

Q&A

How did you coordinate with other NGOs and local Government in your relief work on the ground in your relief work in Pakistan?

At Karachi, we developed an app and brought over 70 NGOs onto it. It helped in extending our reach and avoided duplication.

Is the BeThere programme available online?

You can find more information about the BeThere intervention on War Child Holland's website (<u>https://www.warchildholland.org/intervention-bethere/</u>). Also, feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any additional questions (<u>anthony.guevara@warchild.nl</u>)

Can local NGOs with a similar vision collaborate with GISP to implement parenting programmes in their communities?

We're always interested in hearing from organisations with a similar vision! For more information, you can email GISP at info@support-parents.org, Parenting for Lifelong Health at info@parentingforlifelonghealth.org and Global Parenting Initiative at information@globalparenting.org.



Closing Remarks



Rebecca Smith Global Head of Child Protection Programmes



Adapting Parenting Programmes in Humanitarian Contexts & Migration and Displacement

Safe Families is appropriate in humanitarian contexts after certain provisions are considered, after the sudden onset of a crisis, once the context is sufficiently stable and the basic needs of parents and children are met.

Considerations:

- Migrating and displaced families are often in transit (and therefore less likely to complete a traditional parenting programme) and under significant stress
- The impact of loss and grief on children and their caregivers
- Being unfamiliar with the location and how to access services

Before you begin:

- Services should be mapped and referral pathways in place for: child protection, child safeguarding, gender based violence, mental health and psychosocial support.
- Review of secondary information, chid protection assessments and a gender analysis.
- A risk assessment to assess and mitigate risks of bringing children and parents together.
- Promote an integrated approach by sharing messages and developing referral pathways between different programme areas.





THANK YOU

JOIN THE FAMILY STRENGTHENING TASKFORCE

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

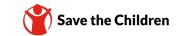
- Sara Hommel: <u>SHommel@savechildren.org</u>
- Sabine Rakotomalala: <u>sabinev@who.int</u>







Scan to visit the Family Strengthening Taskforce Website



Contact our speakers

How can I get in touch?



Sabine Rakotomalala

sabinev@who.int



Genevieve Haupt Ronnie

genevieve.hauptronnie@uct. ac.za



Dr Isang Awah

isang.awah@spi.ox.ac.uk



Yvonne Agengo

yvonne.agengo@rescue.org



Mari Ullmann

mari@support-parents.org



Dr Aala El-Khani

aala.el-khani@un.org



Dr Caoimhe Nic a Bháird

cnic@unicef.org



Anthony Guevara

anthony.guevara@warchild.nl



Rebecca Smith

rebecca.smith@savethechildren .org



Khayam Husain

khayam.husain@acpl.com.pk

Continue the conversation



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www.support-parents.org



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Global

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