

U.S. Children in Emergencies



IAEM Region 1 Conference
October 23, 2008

Children in Disaster

Children in Disasters

- **Brief Introduction to Save the Children**
- **Children in Comprehensive Emergency Management**
- **Hurricanes Gustav and Ike**
- **Advocacy and Coalition Building**

Save the Children

75 Years Serving Children

- **Independent-Non Profit**
- **Focus: Improving children's health and education in poor, rural areas of 12 states**
- **Disasters: Mobilizing rapid assistance to keep children safe and help them recover. U.S. disaster activity began as a result of hurricane Katrina.**
- **Save the Children USA is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, a global network of 28 independent Save the Children organizations working in more than 110 countries.**



Children in Comprehensive Emergency Management

- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

Mitigation

- Legislative
 - Mandate that child care facilities and school emergency operations plans must be integrated and approved by local emergency management agencies.
- Zoning
 - Work with the community to pass ordinances to prevent child care facilities from locating near hazardous material facilities.

Preparedness

- **Emergency Operations Plan Addition**
 - Download from our site
www.savethechildren.org/usemergency

U.S. Emergency Programs for Children



Responding to Disasters

Read about two of our major emergency responses in the United States: Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and wildfires in Southern California in 2007.

[Learn about Hurricane Katrina](#)

[Learn about California's Wildfires](#)

[Download](#)

Save the
Children's
Children in
Emergencies
Planning Guide



Preparing for the Next Emergency

Too often, children's unique needs are overlooked when disasters strike. Through partnerships with the American Red Cross and other organizations, advocacy efforts and programs for children, Save the Children is working to ensure children's needs are not forgotten.

[Read More](#)



Creating Safe Spaces to Play

Safe Spaces, safe play areas for children affected by disasters, are one of Save the Children's key emergency programs. In the United States, Save the Children provides kits full of materials to set up *Safe Spaces* for children in evacuation shelters and other locations. [Read More](#)

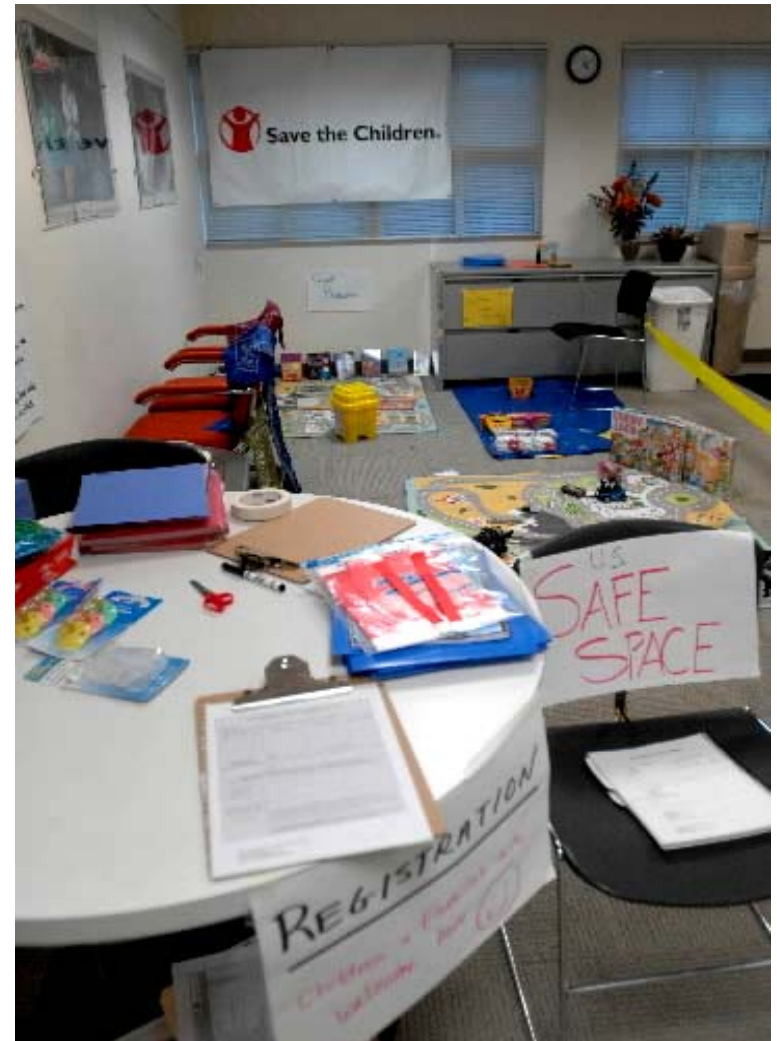


How You Can Help

Help keep children in America safe and strong before, during and after emergencies. Donate to the U.S. Emergencies Fund and support our work. [Donate now](#)

Response

- Shelter
 - Establish a Safe Space area in American Red Cross shelters (MOU)



Recovery

Save the Children provides programs to address the emotional support needs of children, teachers and parents



Child Care Rebuilding and Resupplying

Child Care Centers are important to the local economy. For every \$1 spent in recovery, \$.98 returned to the community

36 child care centers along the Mississippi Coast were rebuilt through partnerships with Chevron.



Gustav Response

August 28—September 3, 2008



Gustav Highlights

- Landfall location predicted several days out
- New Orleans Evacuated
- Major shelter locations in Shreveport, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, LA and Mississippi
- REDI Team deployed
- Toys “R” Us donations

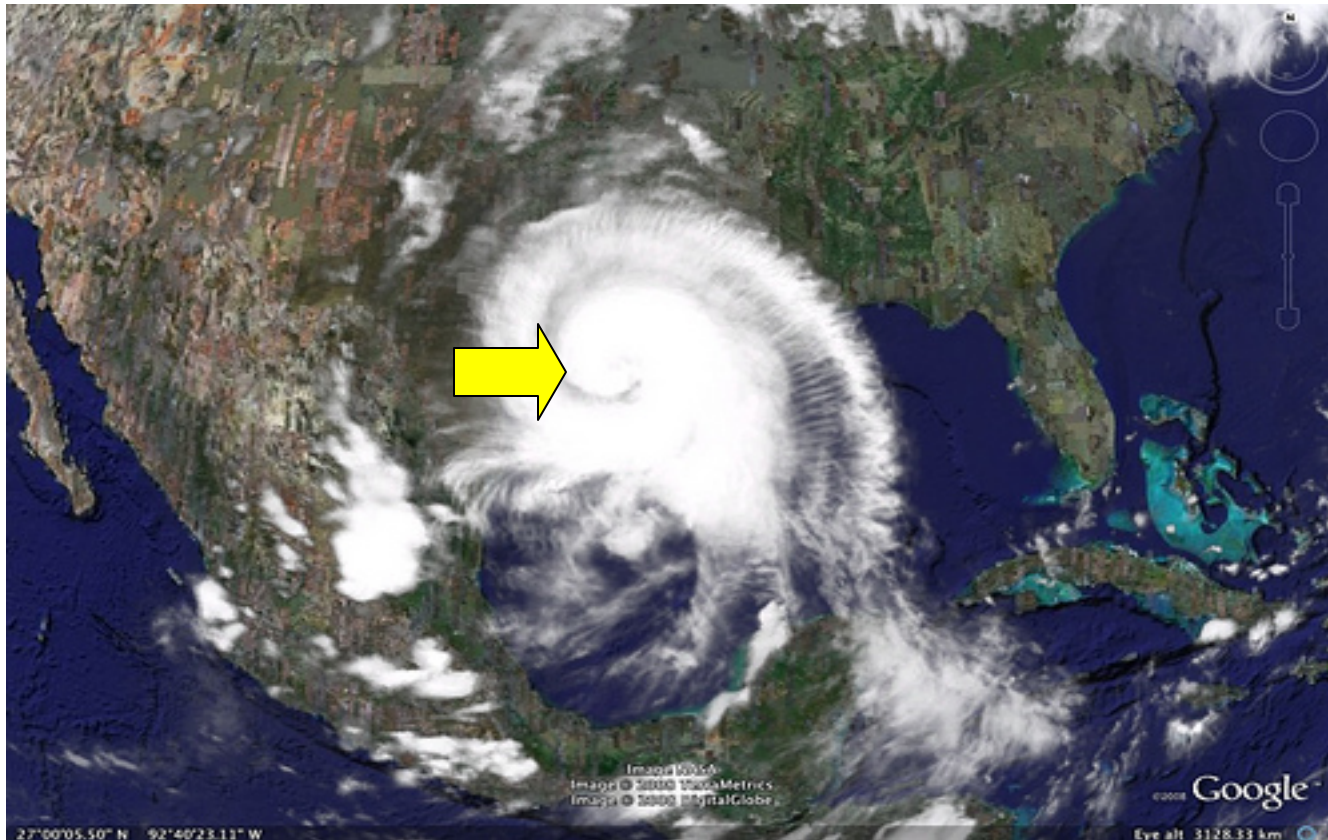


Gustav Highlights

- 16 shelters served in two states
- 25 Safe Space Kits & arts and crafts supplies
- Distributed essential materials:
 - 1,500 evacuation backpacks
 - 81,300 diapers and wipes
 - 220 portable cribs
 - 120 crib sheets
 - Plus baby shampoo, washcloths, children's clothing (underwear) and diaper rash ointment

IKE RESPONSE

September 10 Thru Present



Ike Highlights

- Difficult storm to predict impact area
- Evacuation from Corpus Christi to Port Arthur (300 miles and over 1 million evacuees)
- 45,000 sheltered throughout state
- REDI Team deployed
- Participated in meetings at the state command center in Austin, ARC, FEMA, TX VOAD, city officials

Ike Highlights

- 25+ shelters served in three major metropolitan areas (San Antonio, Austin, Houston)
- Provided: technical support & guidance on children's safety and protection, 80 Safe Space kits and arts and crafts

Ike Highlights

Distribution of Essential Materials:

- 321,500 diapers and wipes (TRU, CVS & purchased)
- 3,200 Art Kits (Scholastic)
- 697 packable cribs
- 32 bathing basins
- 650 wash cloths & 220 baby wash
- Additionally: 5 car seats, 6 highchairs, 4 strollers, 12 thermometers, 2 hepa air filters, 1 baby sound system

Ike Highlights

Child Care Restoration & Afterschool

- Conducting rapid assessment of 5,000 child care sites in 23 counties in partnership with Collaborative for Children
- Plans underway for provision of emergency child care and sub-grants to restore care
- Building partnership with Houston Independent School District to provide programs for children in shelters long-term

Long Term Plans

- Focus: psychosocial and child care restoration
- Open an office in Houston to base psychosocial program with 4 staff
- Assist in restoring child care

Advocacy and Coalition Building

FEMA NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Save the Children is a member of the FEMA National Advisory Council
- Mark Shriver, USP VP represents Save
- Represents all children's organizations
- One of two NVOAD members
- Sub-Committees
 - Housing
 - National Response Framework
 - Special Needs

National Commission on Children in Disaster

Establish a federal commission to:

- Systematically and thoroughly review shortcomings addressing children's needs in mitigation, planning, response and recovery in a variety of sectors including physical health, mental health, education, housing, safety, etc.
- And make recommendations on how they can be improved in the future.

Nation Commission on Children in Disaster

- Purpose
 - Make recommendations to congress and the president
- Ten person commission
 - 8 from congress
 - 2 from White House
- IAEM representative-Bruce Lockwood, CT

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