

## Resilient Children/Resilient Communities – Fact Sheet

**Partners:** GSK (Sponsor), the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at the Earth Institute | Columbia University (Research and Backbone), Save the Children (Community Operations)

**Challenge:** Emergency response plans often fail to address the specific needs of children and their families before, during and after disasters. Children’s institutions such as daycare centers and schools are left out of the equation, and may not have the resources and capacity to provide safe, non-traumatic sheltering and displacement management services which include family re-unification planning. Studies show that barriers which prevent children from returning to school quickly after a disaster can delay the return to normalcy that kids need, and the long-term impact can be devastating. Quickly returning to a routine can improve a child’s recovery and simultaneously allow the family unit to address other issue of recovery.

### Relevant statistics:

- Most of the US is in an area prone to floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and/or earthquakes [NEED link to source]
- More than half of US families have been affected by a disaster
- 69 million children are separated from their parents each work day as they go to school or child care
- 40% of parents don’t have an emergency plan
- 42% of parents do not know where to meet their children if they’ve been evacuated. It took almost 7 months to reunite the last child with her family after Katrina
- Of every \$10 spent in Federal Agency Preparedness Grants, less than one penny goes to activities targeting children’s safety

**Project Overview/Goals:** GSK, NCDP and Save the Children will develop a replicable model of child-focused community resilience planning that can be brought to national scale. Additionally, two pilot communities will be measurably more prepared to address the needs of children in their area.

This will be accomplished by the *Resilient Children/Resilient Communities Initiative* developing two pilot programs – one in Washington County, Arkansas, and one in Putnam County, New York -- over a three-year period. The partners will guide the two communities through a crisis simulation and help them develop a sustainable, child-focused action plan to build community resilience. Impact will be measured using the Community Preparedness Index (CPI), an evidence-based measure of community preparedness previously developed by Save the Children in collaboration with NCDP.

Additionally, a National Children’s Resilience Board (NCRB) will be established. The purpose of this group will be to provide linkages and visibility to the work of increasing the resilience of children at the community level, and the policies that guide and facilitate this work nationally. The NCRB will be composed of public officials, thought leaders, and innovators from the public and private sectors.

The work will be conducted from July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018, and is funded by a \$2 million grant from GSK.

**Key aspects of the project:**

- This program will replicate successes and best practices for preparing the institutions that serve children in disasters
- All sectors of the community will be involved in a cross-sector approach to resilience
- This program will be congruent with current national preparedness programs, but will take it further into the community
- The measurement of this program will be based on the CPI, and evidence-based tool for measuring community preparedness
- The development of a National Children's Resilience Board will ensure that community-level success is adopted in national level programs
- The partnership with GSK for funding this initiative brings new perspectives and resources into this area of preparedness and community-based resilience building.

**About NCDP**

The National Center for Disaster Preparedness at the Earth Institute works to understand and improve the nation's capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. NCDP focuses on the readiness of governmental and non-governmental systems; the complexities of population recovery; the power of community engagement; and the risks of human vulnerability, with a particular focus on children. Visit us at <http://ncdp.columbia.edu/> and follow us on [https://twitter.com/columbia\\_ncdp](https://twitter.com/columbia_ncdp).

**About GlaxoSmithKline**

GlaxoSmithKline - one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies – is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. As a healthcare company, GSK is working to address and solve some of the most pressing community health challenges because much of what influences health happens outside the doctor's office, in communities. Factors like preparedness for emergencies and disasters have a major impact on individual health. For further information, go to [us.gsk.com](http://us.gsk.com) or follow us on [twitter.com/GSKUS](https://twitter.com/GSKUS).

**About Save the Children**

Save the Children invests in childhood – every day, in times of crisis and for our future. In the United States and around the world, we are dedicated to ensuring every child has the best chance for success. Our pioneering programs give children a healthy start, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. Our advocacy efforts provide a voice for children who cannot speak for themselves. As the leading expert on children, we inspire and achieve lasting impact for millions of the world's most vulnerable girls and boys. By transforming children's lives now, we change the course of their future and ours. Learn more about our Get Ready Get Safe preparedness initiative at [www.savethechildren.org/GetReady](http://www.savethechildren.org/GetReady).