

## **Caritas and UNICEF to Prepare Child Plan**

Church social arm to formulate emergency protection guidelines

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Caritas in association with UNICEF Bangladesh, is formulating a plan for "Child Protection in Emergencies," the first initiative of its kind for a local NGO.

The agency is currently working to develop draft guidelines for various NGOs that work for and with children to ensure their safety and security during an emergency.

The Caritas UNICEF partnership was launched officially at a recent training workshop entitled: National Cluster on Child Protection in Emergencies at the Caritas Development Institute in Dhaka June 1-5.

Some 27 Caritas staff from seven regional offices attended the workshop that was led by Save the Children trainers.

It also advised how to deal more effectively with school drop-outs, psychological and trafficking problems among children and safeguarding their rights.

Participants, many of whom have experience of working with vulnerable children at Child Friendly Centers in disaster-prone areas, said the training will enhance their capacity to serve more efficiently.

"We've been working with street children for a long time. The training will help me create a friendlier environment for them," said Bakul Gomes, 40.

Irene Murmu, 36, echoed her agreement saying, "We were told to be more patient while working with children."

Daud Jibon Das, 32, who has worked with children in southwestern Bangladesh following natural disasters, added that if he had had such training before he could have been of more assistance to children in emergencies.

"After natural disasters when children lose their parents they are seriously affected psychologically. They need to recover so that they can get on with their lives as normally as possible," he asserted.

Mafuza Huq, 55, a trainer from Save the Children said, "Caritas has been working with children for a long time. We hope what they have to offer will be better from now on with their new techniques in childcare."

***This Report collected from Union of Catholic Asian News <http://www.ucanews.com>.***