Children of War: Responses to Psycho-Social Distress in Cambodia

This book examines the relationship between conflict and psycho-social distress; how children, their families and communities are affected by war and social upheaval; and the appropriateness of national and international responses to psycho-social problems.

The authors reveal the complex nature of psycho-social distress and the ways in which its effects are mediated by a range of conditions related, for example, to socio-economic conditions, cultural contexts and values, access to services, family circumstances and an individual's characteristics. From this analysis emerges a critique of the role of international and national agencies. While many agencies recognize that this is an important area for intervention, some are at a loss as to how to intervene; others have often applied therapeutic models that are inappropriate both in terms of their cost and human resource requirements, as well as in their basic assumptions about the nature and effects of trauma and who constitutes a vulnerable group.

Book co-published with the International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC).

Publication and ordering details

Pub. Date: 1 Jan 1997
Pub. Place: Geneva
ISBN: 92 9085 019 1
Type: Paperback
From: UNRISD

1997. Children of War: Responses to Psycho-Social Distress in Cambodia. Geneva: UNRISD. Boyle David. Linton, Suzannah, “New Approaches to International Justice in Cambodia and East Timor”, International Review of the Red Cross 93 (2002). Linton, Suzannah, “Cambodia, East Timor and Sierra Leone: Experiments in International Justice”, Criminal Law Forum, 12 (2001), 185. Linton, Suzannah. How is Children Coping with Post-War Trauma? One suggestion is that variation in resilience- the likelihood of problems developing is related to psycho-social coping factors. psychological reactions in response to their experience of being in a bombing, this was altered with increased proximity of the zone of impact, and the intensity and lethality of exposure [6]. Eighty-seven percent of those children exposed to chemical attack weapons showed psychological symptoms and high traumatic event level several months after the attack [7]. The majority of children exposed to the. How is the social structure affected? Do communities in distress have the social, psychological, cultural and religious resources to rebuild? What is the impact of natural catastrophes on families? What is the impact of conflicts on the most vulnerable groups? Rape: a weapon of war, impact on the families and psychological distress for the individual raped. 25 26.  These responses already contribute, at least partially, to the improvement of the psychosocial well-being of populations (a first stage, for example, is to ensure the safety and protection of people). But, in order to promote a holistic approach in response to the complexity of humanitarian crises, a deeper consideration of the psychosocial dimension is crucial in all ACF programmes.