

## **Profiling the protection concerns of children displaced due to armed conflict in Sri Lanka**

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The armed conflict in Sri Lanka, spanning over two decades, has created several levels of affected persons including losing loved ones, losing livelihoods and being displaced from ones home and community. Children are more vulnerable to the current security impediments and life in displacement. Displacement, security issues and poor infrastructure affects a child's health and education needs as well as having a psychological impact on the child's life.

While there are studies on the IDP situation in Sri Lanka, there is no available information on the protection and care needs of children who have been recently displaced. A study focusing on issues related to protection and care of children is essential. It will also assist in formulating policies and programmes in accordance with the needs of the affected persons and changing ground situation. Further, profiling this specific group would assist in identifying and formulating effective advocacy strategies and raising the profile of protection and care needs of children in IDP camps.

The research included both desk research and field research. The sample be selected to represent the North and East of Sri Lanka as well as the three ethnic groups impacted by the conflict. As such the districts of Anuradhapura, Batticaloa and Jaffna have been chosen. The study is intended to be qualitative in nature with in depth study of a limited number of children. Content analysis of interviews and FGDs was undertaken. The desk research assessed the national laws and policies relevant to IDP children and protection and care needs, mapped out the relevant actors and their functions and conducted a literature review.

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