

## Foundation module 5

### Advocacy

## Section 2 Principles of rights-based approaches for advocacy in emergencies

### Handout 3



### The added value of using a child rights focus An overview of rights-based approaches in advocacy

	<b>Rights-based approaches (RBA)</b>
<b>Definition</b>	A rights-based approach ' <i>deliberately and explicitly focuses on people's achieving the minimum conditions for living with dignity (ie. achieving human rights). It does so by exposing the roots of vulnerability and marginalisation and expanding the range of responses. It empowers people to claim and exercise their rights and to fulfil their responsibilities. A rights-based approach recognizes poor, displaced, and war-affected people as having inherent rights essential to livelihood and security, rights that are validated by international law</i> ' ('CARE Workshop on human rights and rights-based approaches to programming' August 2000 in <i>Promoting rights and responsibilities</i> , <a href="http://www.careinternational.org.uk">www.careinternational.org.uk</a> )
<b>What is it?</b>	An analysis of poverty (understood through rights deprivation), leading to a definition of the objectives of an intervention(s) and the way it is implemented (ie. the <i>what</i> and the <i>how</i> ).
<b>Goals</b>	A facilitative process of self-empowerment for the poor and disenfranchised to help them achieve their rights and of duty bearers to understand and be able to fulfil those rights.
<b>Strategies</b>	Strengthen capacity of rights holders to understand their rights and to design a strategy to assert and claim that right. This may include advocacy as a means to achieve rights realisation.  Work with duty bearer to build their awareness of and capacity to fulfil their obligation.





<b>Frameworks</b>	International human rights law: Universal declaration of human rights (UDHR), International covenant on civil and political rights (ICCPR), International covenant on economic, social and cultural rights (ICESCR), Convention on the rights of the child (CRC), Committee on the elimination of discrimination against women (CEDW) and Committee on the elimination of racial discrimination (CERD).
<b>Principles</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Promote empowerment</li><li>2 Work with partners</li><li>3 Ensure accountability and promote responsibility</li><li>4 Address discrimination</li><li>5 Promote the non-violent resolution of conflicts</li><li>6 Seek sustainable results</li></ol>
<b>Rationale</b>	Programming inevitably affects the balance of power and interacts with political structures and systems. Better to tackle the underlying causes of poverty.
<b>World view</b>	RBA views the world in terms of rights holders and duty bearers and seeks to ensure the latter fulfil their responsibilities to the former.

**Advocacy which focuses on children's rights will:**

- recognise children as **rights holders** and social actors
- seek to give priority to children and a **child-friendly environment**
- be gender sensitive and seek inclusive solutions which involve a focus on those boys and girls who are at risk and discriminated against
- address **unequal power structures** (eg. class, sex, ethnicity, ability and age)
- aim for sustainable results for children by **focusing** not only on the immediate but also on the **root causes of problems**
- use **participatory and empowering approaches** in particular enabling children to advocate for themselves
- hold a **holistic vision** of the rights of the child while making strategic choices about specific advocacy objectives
- focus on those who are most at risk and discriminated against
- recognise governments as primary **duty bearers** accountable to their citizens, including children, and the international community
- recognise parents and families as **primary care givers**, protectors and guides, and supporting them in these roles.

**It will use these legal instruments and frameworks:**

- international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions





- refugee law
- international human rights instruments, including the United Nations (UN) Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- the new monitoring and reporting mechanisms (United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612 (UNSCR 1612))
- the new Human Rights Council
- responsibility to protect
- protection of civilians reporting in the UN Security Council
- humanitarian standards, including the:
  - code of conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movements and Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in disaster relief (1994)
  - UN guidelines on sexual abuse and exploitation
  - Sphere Project Humanitarian charter and minimum standards
  - Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Minimum standards for education in chronic crises and early reconstruction
  - Paris principles and guidelines for children associated with armed forces or armed groups
  - Humanitarian Accountability Project minimum standards
  - European Union (EU) Child rights guidelines
  - EU guidelines for children and armed conflict
- international targets, including the Millennium development goals.

