



Photo: Save the Children

# Training Package for Health Workers

## PROTECTING CHILDREN IN CONFLICT SETTINGS

## Background

The number of children living in a conflict zone has increased by more than 75 percent from the early 1990s. By many metrics, children are more at risk in conflict now than at any time in the last 20 years<sup>1</sup>. Collective actions are needed to turn back the tide of brutality and indifference and to better protect children in conflict. All actors must strive to prevent children being put at risk, uphold international laws and standards and rebuild shattered lives. One of many measures is to train and support health professionals, so that they can better provide health care and protection to the children they meet.

In November a two day training on children's rights for health workers in conflict- and complex contexts will be piloted by Save the Children Sweden and Save the Children International in collaboration with OHCHR and organizations within the health sector.



Photo: Ahmad Baroudi

## The Training

In their daily work health workers need to make decisions that can mean the difference between the protection or violation of children's rights. Moreover, their position provides an

opportunity to identify and support the most vulnerable children.

This training is specifically designed to raise the awareness of health professionals about children's rights to health and protection. It intends to bridge the gap between legal conceptualization of children's rights to health and the daily practice of health professionals.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child remains today as the Convention with the largest number of ratifications. With the legal framework and its principles as a solid ground, this training will provide an opportunity for health workers to reflect on their responsibilities, their relation to children and what it means to respect and apply children's rights in their daily practice, as well as managing ethical dilemmas and challenges. The training includes;

- Introduction to Children's Rights and Protection Systems
- Protection and Health in Humanitarian Work
- Child Rights Based Approaches to Health
- Child Rights Principles and "Do no harm"
- Case studies relevant to the health sector

The training is based on the premise that health professionals working with children in conflict settings are important advocates for children, they can contribute with their expertise and work according to key principles of human rights law, humanitarian law and the highest standards of medical ethics.

The training modules are funded by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

<sup>1</sup> Save the Children's Report; End the war on Children 2018, p. 7