



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## **The Role of Child-Friendly Environments in the Process of Reconstruction; Case of 2003 Bam Earthquake**

---

Hedieh Gamini Esafahani, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran  
[Hedye.gamini@gmail.com](mailto:Hedye.gamini@gmail.com)

Mehrdad Rahimi, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran  
[Mehrdadrahimi1369@gmail.com](mailto:Mehrdadrahimi1369@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

---

Disasters have traumatic physical, social and psychological effects on children. The purpose of establishing Child-Friendly Environments (CFE) following disasters is to create physical and psychological conditions that may facilitate the rehabilitation of children and parents after a major disaster. Thus, based on experiences of UNICEF and SAVE THE CHILDREN, the importance of CFE's in planning and policies related to post-disaster reconstruction should not be underestimated. In the 2003 Bam Earthquake, many Governmental agencies, international NGOs and other organizations promoting children's welfare designed and constructed several Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS's) in the City of Bam. Therefore the study the role of CFS's in the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation ten years after this earthquake may be valuable.

A qualitative, exploratory and descriptive as well as content analysis was used to analyze data. Data was gathered in the form of organizational documents, reports and studies as well as focus group sessions and semi structured and deep interviews with individuals. Questionnaires were also used. It was necessary for the researcher to travel to the City of Bam twice to hold in depth interviews, attend focus groups and obtain firsthand information.

Results indicate that problems and barriers faced by organizations concerned with children affects CFS's. It was found that certain shortcomings in areas such as planning, design, implementation and maintenance of CFS's were mainly due to lack of experience and inability to keep documents up to date. Nevertheless, the impact of these spaces on children and their parents has been significant. In this context, beneficiaries of CFS's reported the implementation of these spaces as successful and their implications as positive.

**Keywords:** Earthquake, BAM, Child, Child-friendly spaces

**Abstract Reference Number:** 52

## 7<sup>th</sup> i-Rec Conference 2015: **Reconstruction and Recovery in Urban Contexts**



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### **Author's Biography**

Hedieh Gamini

- MA Graduate student, Post disaster Reconstruction, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran