



# CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE COOLING STATIONS IN HEATWAVES

GUIDANCE NOTE

## What

This Guidance Note is to support National Societies to include within their existing or new Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) dedicated cooling spaces for use during heat waves and sustained high temperatures.

## Why

During heat waves some children may have barriers to accessing safe, cool spaces. This can result in health conditions like heat stroke, de-hydration, sunburn, and fatigue. Children who become desperate to find a cool space may also become vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and violence.

## How

CFS Cooling Stations should follow the regular processes and standards of a CFS. Such as having in place child safeguarding policies and systems, making available local referrals, trained and competent personnel, having child-friendly communication, and safe materials, etc.

The specific adaptations to turn the CFS into a Cooling Station can be different in each CFS.

Ideally, actions will be defined through consultations with diverse groups of children, parents, and stakeholders in the location where each CFS Cooling Station will be implemented.

Sample CFS Cooling Station actions include:

- dedicating certain hours, such as peak heat hours, for the CFS to be accessible for marginalized children;
- using air conditioners, heat pumps, or fans to provide a cool space;
- providing water taps and bottled water to help hydrate;
- delivering Child Cooling Kits with water, hydration salts, sunscreen, hats, hygiene materials, and local referrals for protection services;
- distributing vouchers that children can use for water, food, and clothing at local shops;
- making available first aid assistance; and
- sharing information on local medical services.

To enhance the chances of success, it can help to promote the CFS Cooling Stations to target child populations using child friendly communications in places where the children spend time.

## When

The CFS Cooling Stations can be implemented starting when a heat wave or sustained high temperatures are forecast.

## Who

Some categories of children can have heightened protection risks in heat waves. Therefore, these categories of children can be the primary focus of the CFS Cooling Stations. Specifically:

- Children connected to the streets
- Children in labour
- Unaccompanied and separated children
- Children living in poverty
- Children who are stigmatized
- Children out of school