

Jeanne-Aimée De Marrais

Senior Director, US Emergencies
Save the Children

Jeanne-Aimee De Marrais is the Senior Director, US Emergencies for Save the Children where she leads the agency's commitment to ensuring the protection of children in US emergencies through preparedness, response and recovery initiatives. De Marrais was the founding Director of the US Emergencies work for Save the Children and was instrumental in defining Save the Children's role as the national advocacy voice for children in emergencies, helping create and serving as advisor to the National Commission on Children and Disasters.

De Marrais is a national expert in Child Care preparedness, response and recovery and in the protection of children in emergencies. De Marrais has served as an advisor on children and emergencies to country programs and government civil protection leaders in New Zealand, Australia, Italy, Canada, Scotland and England.

De Marrais is a recognized leader in children's protection in emergencies and was responsible for writing national standards in Child Care and Out-of-School Time (afterschool) emergency preparedness planning. De Marrais wrote the framework for a national report card on Children in Emergencies, published annually by Save the Children, and she has also provided significant technical guidance and comments to the creation of numerous national response and recovery framework documents, guidance documents and trainings (partial list included below).

De Marrais serves as a national spokesperson for children in emergencies, working with federal agencies, Congress and states on policy changes to ensure the inclusion of children's unique need for physical, emotional and cognitive protection in emergency preparedness, response and recovery plans.

De Marrais led Save the Children disaster responses to every major disaster in the US since Hurricane Katrina. She was Team Leader for Save the Children's Hurricane Katrina Response programs in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. She led Save the Children's responses to: the 2007 Southern California Wildfires; spring 2008 tornadoes in Tennessee and Arkansas, June 2008 mid-western floods; 2008 Hurricanes Dolly, Gustav and Ike; the 2009 American Samoa Tsunami, the 2011 Southeastern Tornadoes and Joplin; the 2012 Hurricanes Isaac and Sandy; and the 2013 Oklahoma tornadoes and Sandy Hook Shooting Tragedy. And in fall 2015, De Marrais led the start-up of Save the Children's response to the Refugee Crisis in Greece, serving more than 250,000+ refugees as they arrived in Europe (September – November). In 2017, she led Save the Children's hurricane response programs in Texas and Florida, and she has oversight of the response and recovery programs in Puerto Rico.

De Marrais also led Save the Children's emergency preparedness work, helping ensure that children's needs are included in all aspects of community emergency planning.

Since 2014, De Marrais has served on the National Advisory Council for FEMA. De Marrais and her colleagues have established a strong working relationship with FEMA, both at the national and regional levels. She was instrumental in advising FEMA on updating its annual grant guidance to states to reflect the needs of children and families, as well as helping the Agency establish a “Children’s Working Group.” She served on the National Mass Care Council and serves on the NVOAD Mass Care Committee and she provides technical guidance on children in emergencies to FEMA’s regional emergency management experts.

For nearly three years before the Hurricane Katrina disaster response, De Marrais was the Director of External Affairs and Resource Development for Save the Children’s U.S. Programs division, serving children living in impoverished rural communities across the United States.

Prior to joining Save the Children, De Marrais work for the Maryland Legislature’s Chairman of the Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families, serving in both his legislative and political offices. In that role she helped create and implement a large, multi-dimensional legislative agenda that included a results-based school readiness, early childhood initiative and was focused on ensuring that programs funded by the legislative and executive branches serving children and families were results-based, collaborative and effective.

Before working in the public sector, De Marrais taught middle school in Colorado and in the inner city in Connecticut. De Marrais started her career working in Maternal Child health for the Pathfinder Fund.

De Marrais holds degrees from Tufts University and Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

Partial List of Publications

Wrote:

Protecting Children in Child Care During Emergencies: Recommended State and National Regulatory and Accreditation Standards for Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers (co-authored with NACCRRRA).

The Children in Emergencies Planning Guide (Save the Children) was created to help local and state emergency managers/coordinators in their efforts to include children in emergency planning.

Child Safety Guidance for Emergency Evacuation Shelters and Local Assistance Centers (Save the Children) provides low-cost and no-cost improvements to improve the safety and well-being of children and adults who are in emergency evacuation shelters, local

assistance centers and other locations where children and families congregate before, during and after incidents.

Significant Contributions to the Creation of:

IS-366: Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters is a free online course offered through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI). The Emergency Management Institute has worked with partners to create a four hour, self-paced, online learning course aimed to provide guidance for Emergency Managers and implementers of children's programs about meeting the unique needs that arise among children as a result of a disaster or emergency.

National Commission on Children and Disaster's 2010 Report, Appendix F. Supplies for Infants and Toddlers in Mass Care Shelters and Emergency Congregate Care Facilities

FY 2012 HSGP Supplemental Resource: Children in Disasters Guidance, created by the Department of Homeland Security, includes specific language, with the objective of establishing a focused national effort to close the gap in planning and response deficiencies and ensure specific entities in communities that provide care for children, such as schools, child care facilities, child welfare and juvenile justice systems, are integrated into State and local disaster planning and exercising.

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD) - Mass Care Standards & Indicators, a document of the NVOAD Mass Care Committee, provides benchmarks and common goals for mass care providers. This document discusses sheltering, feeding, donations management, disaster shelter care for children, as well as temporary respite care for children.