



Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection

CHILDREN'S SAFETY IN THE HEART OF DIPECHO PREPAREDNESS WORK

DRR LESSONS, SIMULATION DRILLS, QUIZZES, SCHOOL AND HOME SAFETY PLANNING - ALL THESE JOINT EFFORTS MAKE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES MORE PROTECTED AND PREPARED FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

Saving lives and livelihoods by preparing for natural disasters is the core principle on which the European Commission has based its Disaster Preparedness Programme "DIPECHO" since 1996.

The European Commission's "Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction amongst Institutions and Vulnerable Communities in the South Caucasus" programme encourages schools and communities to participate in preparedness work and stimulates local governments to include them in regular disaster risk reduction work-related planning. ECHO and its partners: Save the Children, Oxfam, Danish Red Cross, Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland (ASB), UNICEF and UNISDR work in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan to inspire DRR approaches and education through initiatives saving people's lives and livelihoods.



In Armenia, ECHO and partners support building resilience of children, their families, schools, communities and systems. Regional and community authorities and school principals are supported with developments and update of school disaster management plans including school fire safety. Disaster risk reduction and resilience education is introduced as a part of regular classes where school students learn about disasters and develop culture of safety and resilience. Children with the guidance of their teachers and tutors, learn to protect themselves and their peers in times of disasters, engage in evacuations and other drills helping them to develop rescuing skills.

Children, including those with disabilities are engaged in disaster risk reduction through connecting learning and interactive play, quizzes, collaborative contests and theatre performances. They practice their obtained knowledge and skills through regular simulations conducted in target regions: Vayots Dzor, Tavush, Gegharkunik, Lori, Aragatsotn, Shirak and Yerevan. Children and youth are also engaged in home and family safety planning through application of their knowledge to their home environment, and transferring the culture of safety resilience to the member of their family or and neighbors.



In addition, in Shirak and Vayots Dzor regions youth are engaged in activities related to climate change adaptation, tree planting, vulnerability risk assessment and school Green Laboratories supervision.





SAVE THE CHILDREN: Save the Children works in Yerevan, Shirak, Lori, Gegharkunik and Aragatsotn to increase the resilience of the most vulnerable children, their families, caregivers and communities towards disasters. Within the framework of the project, activities are being undertaken to reflect the needs and rights of the most vulnerable children (including children with special needs) in disaster risk reduction policy; build the capacity of children, schools and kindergartens in hazard prone areas to better prepare for, mitigate, and respond to disasters; and tackle issues related to disaster risk reduction in the context of the national educational system.

In Armenia, the action targets children with and without disabilities in 20 inclusive schools, 21 kindergartens and 21 special schools and care institutions in Yerevan and four provinces.

"I had no idea about the right behavior during earthquakes before," said Irina, 14-year-old girl from Yerevan school for children with hearing impairments involved in IDRR. "Recently at school we got trained on the right behavior during emergencies. I am very enthusiastic about it, and now I know that if something happens, I and my friends will have a chance to survive."

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/SaveTheChildrenArmenia>, <https://armenia.savethechildren.net/>



THE ARMENIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (ARCS): In Shirak region, the ARCS is focusing on safer schools and more resilient and prepared families. 86 schools have been assessed, then fire protection equipment and evacuation signage installed. The school evacuation plans are then updated in preparation for the school evacuations which refresh knowledge and actions. In all schools, 270 teachers have been trained in the 'Safe Family Manual' and 'Family Emergency Plans'. Students are then completing the Family Emergency Plans at home with families to make their homes safer and more prepared for disasters. The best Family Emergency Plans are judged and awards given at both local and regional level. A 2015 Calendar is also used developed, printed and disseminated across all Armenia with the best DRR related images from the children. Key DRR messages are also incorporated into the calendar as reminders for families and decision makers. Details: http://redcross.am/en/main/%E2%80%9CFamily+emergency+plan%E2%80%9D+competition+results+have+been+summed+up/1/1/0/1/news_more/96; <http://redcross.am/en/whatwedo/Building+Resilient+Local+Communities+in+Armenia+and+Georgia/3/20/18/38>



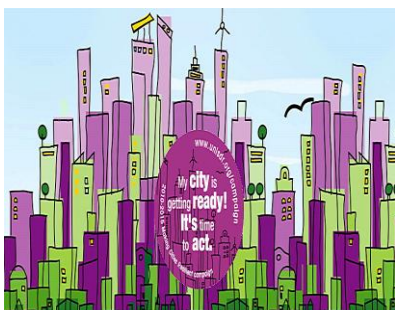
OXFAM: In Armenia, together with local partners, STC, BOH and FAVL, Oxfam works with local governments in Vayots Dzor and Tavush region to ensure increased protection and preparedness of children and youth through introduction of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in formal and informal education (at schools, Civic Centers, Resource Centers and Youth Clubs). In its work Oxfam focuses also on working with children with special needs and youth that are actively engaged in community preparedness work: home and family safety planning, community vulnerability assessment, building community and school resilience through introduction of innovative Green Labs. As Sos Martirosyan, a member of Arpi Community Youth Club says: *I feel I learn a lot about disasters, how to be calm and act if they happen, but I also share this knowledge with my family whose members were not aware how to behave in emergency.*

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/Oxfam.Armenia>



UNICEF: UNICEF in Armenia works with the Ministry of Education and Science to support building resilience to disasters of institutions and communities in Armenia through informing national policy agendas by regional and national disaster and education for sustainable development related evidence based knowledge and technical guidelines. The main directions of UNICEF's work in DRR include a/ informing and awareness building, b/ supporting the institutionalization of successful DRR and education for sustainable development models for further replication to increase resilience of children, families, communities and systems; c/ strengthening national social protection systems to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable groups during emergencies; and d/ supporting the establishment of a national mechanism for psycho-social support to children in emergencies with defined accountabilities.

Details: <http://www.unicef.am>



UNISDR: Sub-regional office in Central Asia and South Caucasus, as part of the ECHO-funded project "Strengthened Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia and Caucasus through greater fostering of the Hyogo Framework for Action priorities" pursues a number of goals, including building awareness of hazards, prioritizing disaster risk reduction, and better preparing for calamities. This activity also aims at most vulnerable groups, including school children. UNISDR is coordinating with UNICEF in promoting the DRR awareness building in the areas covered by the project. The local authorities in the pilot project cities welcome the application of the experience and expertise of the UN Children's Fund in the region, and is looking forward to the activities. Tbilisi and Gori in Georgia and Noyemberyan and Berd in Armenia are the four cities from the South Caucasus, who are joining UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient Campaign in 2015. Madhavi Malalgoda Ariyabandu, UNISDR Regional Coordinator, said: *These cities and towns are committing to a ten-point checklist of actions which help them to become resilient to disasters and to manage their growth in a sustainable way. The campaign helps participants to become better organized and to identify key priorities for action for risk reduction. They can also benefit from the shared experience of other participants facing similar challenges. It is a very dynamic and interactive campaign.* The partnership will support building of local capacity to assess risks of natural hazards, update disaster inclusive action plans and foster exchange of experiences and good practices between municipalities and local governments in the region. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Unisdr-Sub-Regional-Office-for-Central-Asia-and-South-Caucasus/1417176938576157?fref=ts>

The EU's humanitarian aid funds relief operations for victims of natural disasters and conflicts outside the European Union. Aid is provided impartially, directly to people in need, without discrimination of their race, ethnic group, religion, gender, age, nationality or political affiliation. The "Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction amongst Institutions and Vulnerable Communities in the South Caucasus" programme contributes to increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability of children and communities in areas prone to natural hazards – is implemented in cooperation with its selected partner organizations: Danish Red Cross as lead in a consortium with Icelandic and Austrian Red Cross and IFRC with Georgia and Armenian Red Cross Societies as implementing partners, Oxfam GB with BSEA, RCDA, BOH, STC, FAVL as implementing partners, Save the Children, Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland (ASB), UNICEF and UNISDR. The programme is implemented in regions and communities in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan that are highly exposed to natural hazards and disaster risks – targeting primarily community members and local institutions with special emphasis on children, youth and women. The programme is realized in partnership with relevant ministries of the Governments of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Regional and Local Authorities – who have a role to play in coordinating disaster management and reduction activities in order to ensure that the policy development for disaster risk reduction supports the sustainable results of the programme.