



Save the Children



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS

Country Briefs in
Asia and the Pacific
in 2015

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Front cover photo: Save the Children

OVERVIEW

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children. We work in around 120 countries. We save children's lives; we fight for their rights; we help them fulfil their potential.

We work to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives. Across all of our work, we pursue several core values: accountability, ambition, collaboration, creativity, and integrity.

Education Safe from Disasters

Education Safe from Disasters is a three-year strategy aimed at protecting children's education before, during, and after disaster. Launched in October 2015, the strategy is committed to applying the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, a holistic and child-centred approach to reducing risks from all threats to children's safety at school, and to educational continuity.

Each year disasters have a major impact on children and education systems. The Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster prone in the world, and disasters have accounted for the loss of half a million lives in this region during the last ten years. Unfortunately, children bear the brunt of these disasters.

Beyond major disasters, a myriad of smaller hazards like flooding, drought, and coastal erosion are exacerbating educational inequities. There are 75 million children aged 3-18 in desperate need of educational support in 35 developing countries, a gap that would cost \$8.5 billion, or \$113 per child, annually to close.¹ In the coming decades, 200 million children per year will have their lives severely disrupted by disasters and it will be the deprived and marginalised children who are the most vulnerable.²

¹ Overseas Development Institute (ODI), <https://www.odi.org/comment/10388-five-reasons-why-we-need-global-fund-education-emergencies>.

² UNICEF, <https://blogs.unicef.org/east-asia-pacific/tag/philippines/>.

Our 0/0 Goal:
Zero children killed or injured
in schools when a disaster strikes,
Zero days of schooling lost due to a disaster.

Every child has a right to a quality education, yet across the region many children are unable to realise this right due to the impact of these disasters. Educational inequities are made worse because of schools being damaged or destroyed, schools being used as evacuation centres, and because disaster management policies are not being adequately resourced or prioritised through different levels of governments and to the community level. Being unable to realise their right to education puts children at risk of exploitation and violence, and contributes towards a lack of economic participation. Furthermore, the pursuit of this right to an education itself could put children at risk when they are in school facilities that are not constructed or maintained to be disaster resilient.

Conversely if education is safeguarded and supported before, during, and after a disaster it can save lives, protect children, and benefit whole communities and countries. Schools can have a catalytic effect on strengthening humanitarian effectiveness, reducing vulnerabilities and supporting risk mitigation for future hazards. Additionally, while the cost of education in emergencies interventions can be high, such costs can be minimised with investment to ensure that national education systems are less vulnerable, and local schools are better prepared to bounce back from crisis and children return to learning.

Education Safe from Disasters Programmes in Asia Pacific up to 2014

Between 2006 - 2013,
Save the Children implemented

74+ programmes

with significant activities and outcomes
in disaster risk management and education.

These programmes have reached more than



612,000 children

making us a significant disaster safety in
education agency across the world.

We implemented disaster safety in education in 34
countries with

US\$21.5+ million

from more than 30 donors.



Almost

three quarters

of these were in Asia.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS AFGHANISTAN

Disasters in Afghanistan have historically caused displacement of children and their communities. Prone to earthquakes, flooding, drought, landslides, and avalanches, these disasters exacerbate the vulnerability of communities already affected by long term food insecurity and extended conflict. In 2015, more than 84,000 children were affected by disasters. We implemented a national disaster safety strategy through schools and communities over the past five years, which helped to translate disaster awareness educational materials into local languages, and established emergency response teams at national and provincial levels. We've reached more than 1,101,986 direct beneficiaries, among them over 500,000 children.

Having launched more than 300 children's councils on disaster safety and exemplary animated educational videos, we facilitated 52 schools to be better-prepared for disaster in some of the 120 targeted communities in 3 disaster-prone provinces. We supported schools to teach emergency preparedness to children to increase their chances of surviving the next disaster. Community leaders, including teachers and parents, attended our trainings on disaster safety, where we also emphasised the importance of protecting children during emergencies. The Ministry of Education has formally approved our programme to pilot school safety policies in eight provinces.

The vulnerability of children in Afghanistan leaves them at risk of dropping out permanently from the education system. Ensuring that their communities and schools are better prepared for disaster can make it more likely for children to continue their education during and after emergencies.



Freshta, 12, is one of the top students of her class. She has received trainings from Save the Children, in which she learned what to do in response to a disaster, such as taking cover during an earthquake and being aware of evacuation routes from her school during floods. “The training I received was very useful,” she said. “I will continue to teach people about what I have learned, because by doing that I will save their lives.”



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is among the top fifteen countries most exposed to disaster, as it is threatened by earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts, and rising sea levels. Children face difficulties continuing their education; on average, 900 schools suffer damage from disasters every year. In the last three years more than 1.5 million children have suffered education disruption because of disasters, especially cyclones. In 2015, at least 1,130 schools were closed for a month and 305 were destroyed due to flooding in the northern districts. Hidden impacts of hazards include schools that literally lose the ground they are perched on, due to worsening coastal erosion.

Save the Children and partners have worked to develop a framework for comprehensive school safety, and are supporting schools to have disaster management systems in place. Post disaster, we helped to retrofit and rebuild schools, and replaced damaged education material. We worked to increase the capacity of school authorities to take appropriate steps for school safety and ensure resources are mobilized.

Schools are already focusing on disaster preparedness by holding safety orientations for students and staff. Over 8,000 children have been part of our climate change and disaster safety education outreach. We advocate with ministries of education for the institutionalization of disaster preparedness into the public education system. The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education incorporated this into school improvement plans.

Save the Children is helping ensure that adequate resources are mobilised for this, and that disaster preparedness will be incorporated into higher education levels as well.



Selina Kauser is a senior teacher involved in the Child Resilience Project, which works with children, teachers, and schools to develop safety plans, evacuation routes, and earthquake drills. Selina has received search and rescue training, and instructs students on earthquake and fire preparedness. Her students above are practicing an earthquake drill.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS BHUTAN

Bhutan lies downstream from 25 potentially dangerous glacial lakes and is in danger from “glacial lake outburst floods,” which can be devastating and deadly. Bhutan is also in a seismically active zone, with the most recent earthquake in 2011, and faces threats from fires, landslides, flash floods, and windstorms.

In 2015, Save the Children in Bhutan partnered with the government to formulate an Education Sector-wide Disaster Management and Contingency Plan, which can be used to scale up other sectors. We helped to develop a comprehensive national guide for disaster risk management, and worked with the government to produce a teacher’s handbook on disaster safety that has been piloted in five districts, serving as an easy guide for implementing school-based disaster management programmes and activities.

We are also developing a disaster management programme for monastic schools, to be piloted in four schools. Two workshops on disaster safety have already been completed in all twenty districts. More than 39,000 children and adults, 131 public schools, and 73 monastic schools have been reached by our programmes. 2015 also saw the completion of a comprehensive data collection process in Paro district that will be used to develop a community-based district disaster management plan. The Paro Planning Team is currently in the process of data collation and analysis to review and update the plan.

Looking forward, we will pursue strengthening and expanding the disaster management programming for monastic schools, as they have an especially high vulnerability to disasters. We will also endeavour to adapt our comprehensive school safety programmes in schools into early childhood care centres and for children with special needs. Integrating risk reduction and resilience into school curricula is also a high priority, as this helps to develop and sustain a culture of resilience for Bhutanese children, in schools, and in society at large.



Children residing in monastic institutions are at risk of many hazards and are among the most vulnerable. The Comprehensive Disaster Management Project for the Education Sector will focus on monastic institutions' needs and priorities. These novice monks from a monastic school took part in a discussion about their level of disaster awareness, ranking fire as the most dangerous hazard for them. "We need fire extinguishers and trained personnel and security for fire safety," 14-year-old Phub Dorji said.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS CAMBODIA

Cambodia is one of Southeast Asia's most disaster-prone countries, affected by floods, storms, and typhoons annually, during the monsoon season from June to November. These recurring hazards, in addition to repeated droughts, make children especially vulnerable as it is difficult for their schools and communities to recover. Save the Children in Cambodia has been contributing to the ASEAN School Safety Initiative by collaborating with the Ministry of Education to develop a manual for schools, with guidance on how to include risk reduction and resilience in their school curricula nation-wide.

Thirty primary schools developed their very first emergency response plans. Schools in hazard-prone areas held disaster awareness-raising days that were attended by over 16,000 students. We also worked with local provincial governments to provide them with resources to prepare for hazards, and saw them integrate new measures for safety into their plans.

In 2016, we plan to invest and work more closely with local authorities to focus on the unmet needs of children for safety and educational continuity. We are supporting government goals to facilitate active local committees for disaster preparedness and resilience, involving local leaders, health centres, and schools to identify and address their needs and priorities.

The recurring nature of disaster impacts in Cambodia makes it difficult for children to fulfil their right to an uninterrupted quality basic education. This restricts their opportunities and ability to thrive in the long term. The most sustainable solution in Cambodia is to engage local communities, government, and schools themselves in implementing a comprehensive approach to school safety. This will include safer facilities, school disaster management, and risk reduction and resilience education.



Ten-year-old Vuthy was one of a quarter of a million children who could not attend school due to flooding in 2011. Save the Children opened temporary learning centres, which Vuthy attended. “Before this class opened, I spent most of my time only on doing household chores. I am very happy I can continue learning even though my school is flooded,” she said.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS CHINA

Disasters have had a devastating impact on China, historically: four of the top ten highest disaster death tolls in recorded history have occurred in China. Floods, droughts, and earthquakes have made it difficult for children to fulfil their right to a quality and uninterrupted basic education.

In 2015, Save the Children in China promoted a comprehensive approach to school safety from disasters, with a focus on urban areas, and helped to create risk reduction and resilience training packages for teachers and children. We gathered and distributed resources to support schools in reopening after they were impacted by disasters. We also worked with rural communities to strengthen their disaster risk management, efforts which local authorities have recognised and replicated at a larger scale.

We are currently engaging in advocacy efforts with government.

Over 750,000 children participated in our risk reduction and resilience educational activities in 2015, and we organised two rounds of child-centred disaster risk management training attended by national civil affairs officials. Building on these successes, next steps include a partnership with BNU Resilience Lab and the Red Cross to facilitate the first national workshop with experts to introduce and build consensus towards a set of evidence-based, action-oriented Key Messages for Household Risk Reduction and Resilience; work to systematically assess the needs of urban schools; and working with academic officials to develop education tools for schools to increase understanding of risk, and motivation to participate in risk reduction and disaster preparedness.



Xiao Guoying, 15, is a student at Boda Nine-Year School. She joined the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Children's Club in 2015 and is now the leader. She and her fellow club members learn about disasters and climate change, and check local hazards. This has helped to shape her opinions. "It's taken for granted that cutting trees was normal and necessary. After joining the club, I knew that what they did was wrong and harm[ful] to the environment." When Save the Children leaves her school in a year, she plans to work with school staff to continue the club and train more students, as well as provide disaster management training to the village community.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS CENTRAL ASIA: TAJIKISTAN & KYRGYZSTAN

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia face an increasing number of disasters that have the potential to intensify in severity, according to the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department.

The entire region is seismically active, and experiences several palpable earthquakes every year. Very strong earthquakes are expected to impact the entire region. River flooding and landslides are also regular threats. Without the government capacity to prepare for these disasters, children remain at risk and without protection of their right to an education.

In 2015, Save the Children in Central Asia worked with government ministries to include school safety guidelines in national education curricula. We trained 1,080 students in practical skills for disaster response, child rights, and climate change adaptation, and taught community teams about the importance of protecting children from disasters. These trainings were adapted to reach 928 children with disabilities.

Forty communities carried out mitigation projects to reduce disaster impact, such as creating evacuation paths from schools to safe areas. To engage children, we developed a cartoon that promoted awareness about disasters, which was broadcast nationally for a month. Across both countries, our programming reached 18,872 children. In 2016, we look forward to creating trainings for women and these crucial steps help build up the capacities of Central Asia governments and communities to be resilient against disasters, and emphasise the importance of protecting children and prioritising education without disruption.



Abdulloeva, 14, is a student leader in her school in Tajikistan and attended a Save the Children training on child rights. She learned about children's right to access education, saying, "I really want to be able to go to university after 18 so I want to fulfil my rights to education until then." Mitigating the impact of disasters on children and schools is a crucial part of making dreams like Abdulloeva's come true.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS INDONESIA

Indonesia is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, an area with tremendous tectonic activity, and holds the record for the country with the most active volcanoes worldwide. It is constantly at risk of earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooding, and drought.

The world's fourth largest population of children, 76 million, live in Indonesia. Fifty-five million are school-age students, and they are often affected first and hit the hardest. When 103 urban villages in Jakarta flooded in 2015, some schools were submerged by water and others were used as temporary shelters. Children were not able to go to school for up to 14 days. This flooding and resulting loss of school days is an annual occurrence in Jakarta. Some schools, located in areas not approved for

settlement, are inundated by contaminated flood waters daily or monthly. Save the Children Indonesia supports the ASEAN School Safety Initiative and works with the Indonesian government and other partners like the United Nations and non-governmental organisations to promote a comprehensive approach to school safety.

We help schools and communities to identify their risks and measures needed for risk reduction, as well as plan to respond to emergencies by facilitating school and community drills and working to include risk reduction and resilience lessons in school curricula. Children themselves share important information about disaster safety with their families, which in turn supports the communal protection of children and their right to access education.



Ten-year-old Amay joined the disaster preparedness team at her school in North Jakarta, and has gained skills and education about disaster safety. Along with her friends, Amay leads and participates in disaster safety awareness campaigns through the use of puppet shows and music, and has performed in nation-wide events and exhibitions (like the one above). “I couldn’t be more proud,” she says.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS LAOS

Laos is extremely vulnerable to windstorms, landslides, floods, and droughts. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, these hazards are only predicted to become worse in the coming decades due to climate change. Save the Children in Laos has a long history of supporting state systems to strengthen disaster preparedness through good relationships with government partners at district, provincial, and national levels. We are currently collaborating to support disaster and climate change policies that focus on protecting children during emergencies.

Save the Children has developed model guidance for participatory School Disaster Management with widespread implementation in schools.

Laos has shared this as a learning model for other countries. Education authorities have led in the adoption of the ASEAN Common Framework for Comprehensive School Safety, and in the ASEAN School Safety Initiative.

Together, with global partners, we have made innovative use of technology by developing and testing a suite of digital assessment tools. The School Safety Self-Assessment Tool promotes school engagement and yields individual school reports and tools for education sector planning and decision-making. Advanced tools for 'light' technical assessment of school facilities have also been piloted.

Working closely with government authorities allows improvements in disaster safety to be established throughout the country and reach the largest number of children possible. With a heightened awareness of safety in schools, children and teachers can reduce disaster risks and be better prepared to protect children from harm and to ensure educational continuity.



Phetmany Wongpen teaches the 4th grade in Napae village and participated in one of our disaster safety trainings. Her school is prone to flash floods, but she works with children and staff to simulate evacuations and integrates disaster safety into her teaching curriculum. “Before... I did not understand exactly what disaster was,” she says. Now, her school practices drills twice a year, and has the tools and knowledge to respond to a disaster.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS NEPAL

Nepal lies in one of the most seismically active zones on earth and is vulnerable to earthquakes, flash floods, and landslides. The devastation of the April 2015 Nepal earthquake affected 3.2 million children and left 0.5 million in need of support to continue their education. There were 22,097 damaged classrooms in public primary and secondary schools, with 957 totally destroyed. Thousands of aftershocks led to the complete closure of schools and colleges for more than a month.

In the aftermath, Save the Children in Nepal provided immediate relief and recovery programmes to save the lives of children and communities. We prioritised building temporary classrooms for children to continue studying and started recovery programmes to rebuild and renovate school buildings to be better prepared for the next disaster. We also worked with the government to develop programmes that teach children to be prepared for disaster, and we are training teachers and students to be leaders of disaster preparedness efforts in their communities.

In Nepal, disasters have repeatedly affected schools and children and made continuing education difficult. Reducing their vulnerability, and ensuring children's access to education and a future, demands that schools must be better prepared to withstand disasters. As an essential component of this, both teachers and students must be trained to be aware of disasters and how to be safe when they occur.



Six months after the 25 April, 2015 earthquake, 9-year-old Ganga is back in her primary school classroom in Melamchi, Nepal. Her school is situated on top of a hill and most students walk miles to reach it every day, using narrow roads that are vulnerable to landslides during the monsoon season. Save the Children supported the primary school to open again after the earthquake, and provided classroom materials and disaster safety trainings for teachers.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is the world's most exposed country to tropical storms, and is hit by an average of 20 typhoons and monsoon rains every year. The country is also susceptible to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and landslides. Education is often severely disrupted as schools are damaged, classroom materials are lost, and teachers and children are injured or killed. In between 2007 and 2011, 10.8 million students were impacted by disasters.

Save the Children Philippines has worked with the Department of Education to develop guidance materials for school disaster management, and creative, innovative approaches to child rights and safety education. Our successful advocacy led to the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act, signed into law on 18 May 2016. This landmark legislation is the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region, and establishes a new global

standard for accountability to children. It will require the development of a national emergency plan to provide special protection and improved relief assistance to children affected by disaster. The Department of Education has also adopted a nation-wide strategic plan for safe schools, with a full time National Disaster Management Office, and full time regional and district focal points for education.

In 2015, Save the Children Philippines organised disaster management trainings, reached thousands of children with participatory approaches for disaster preparedness in schools, and activated youth organizations to participate in risk awareness and reduction. Partnerships with local government is also strengthening school safety. As a result, 620,000 children have been involved in disaster safety trainings such as emergency drills and awareness campaigns. Creative solutions such as using everyday material (i.e. stones and sticks) for learning make disaster preparedness lessons a sustainable and affordable effort. Through these activities, we aim to make education safe and scale up effective models that are reaching and helping children.



In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan damaged or destroyed nearly 17,500 schools and 2,500 day-care centres. Save the Children made it a priority to get children back to school by setting up temporary learning spaces, training teachers, repairing classrooms, and providing educational supplies. These children are back in class at a Save the Children supported school in Iloilo.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS THAILAND

Thailand is extremely vulnerable to flooding, and also faces threats from droughts and cyclones. Millions of children are affected by these disasters, which make it hard for them to receive the normative number of school days or teacher-student contact hours.

Save the Children in Thailand partnered with the government to train school staff in safety and preparations for disaster, and has run a programme since 2012 that raises disaster awareness in urban schools where classrooms are densely packed.

Hundreds of children were taught in their communities about disaster safety through camps, school drills and evacuation planning, and essay competitions on risk reduction and safety.

Engaging children in these efforts allows them to actively participate in risk reduction, and practice their disaster response skills. Our partnership with the government has led to the education authority's endorsement of the integration of disaster preparedness and school safety into national curricula, and the production of toolkits and story books to train teachers in 50 schools.

We also used the appeal of animation to young children by creating a nationally-broadcast cartoon series, “Alert Little Tun,” that teaches children about disaster awareness. This reached millions of children and won an award for innovation, and was showcased at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in March 2015.



In 2011, Thailand faced its worst flooding in 50 years, with 17 out of 77 provinces underwater. We distributed food and hygiene kits immediately, and in the long term set up youth camps to educate children about disaster safety. One of the children who participated said, “Every child should know how to quickly escape from disasters... If it happens, then I can help my family and friends.”



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS VANUATU

For four years in a row, the World Risk Report has named Vanuatu as the world's most disaster-prone country. An estimated 64% of the population is exposed to storms, flooding, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes every year. Most recently in March 2015, category 5 Cyclone Pam devastated homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods, affecting 80% of the population.

Over 50% of all primary and secondary schools were destroyed and remained closed for up to one month. Most are still not yet reconstructed, but children have returned to school in temporary learning centres set up by Save the Children, and we are involved in reconstructing new schools and ensuring they will be safe for children.

Our previous programmes in 3 of Vanuatu's 6 provinces have established a strong foundation in school disaster management that remains to be integrated into the country's new school-based management systems nationwide. We are working with the education authorities to increase their ability to respond to disasters, emphasizing the importance of protecting children from harm, and assuring their right to educational continuity. Teachers and children make use of flipcharts to guide risk assessment and reduction, and are supplemented by highly regarded videos that we produced to teach standard operating procedures for disasters and emergencies. Youth groups, games, and classroom lesson plans are the various ways in which we have helped schools incorporate risk reduction into informal and formal education.

The protection of children and their right to access an education has been embraced by education and disaster management authorities in Vanuatu, and our work with communities and the government is helping to spread understanding of the vulnerability of children and the importance of education.



Nancy, 5, proudly wears her new school bag, presented to her by Save the Children. She is attending her first day of kindergarten after Cyclone Pam, which is finally reopening after 3 months. The building was completely destroyed by the cyclone, and was rebuilt by the community with Save the Children's support. We also provided books, toys, and games to replace those lost in the cyclone.



EDUCATION SAFE FROM DISASTERS VIETNAM

Vietnam is the fifth most disaster-prone country in the world, with natural disasters wiping out 1.5 percent of its gross domestic product every year. With a coastline of nearly 3,000 km and about 70 percent of the population living in coastal and low-lying areas, the country is severely affected by climate change and global warming.

Since our operation in Vietnam in 1990, Save the Children has responded to all major disasters, offering emergency relief supplies to children and their communities after disasters, as well as school and classroom materials.

We have been among the leading agencies in humanitarian response, providing immediate support to over 2 million people to recover from disasters in the last decade.

In 2015, together with our partners, we launched the project “Building Resilience to Natural Hazards in Central Vietnam” that will help nearly half a million people reduce disaster risks. We also launched projects to prepare schools to participate in risk reduction and develop skills for response, in multiple provinces, and collaborated with the government to develop curriculum materials, such as books and videos, for use in schools nation-wide. When staff learn a comprehensive multi-hazard approach to identifying risks, and reducing them, and when children participate and learn standard operating procedures to improve safety during disasters and emergencies, they learn to reduce destruction, save lives, and improve resilience and recovery in their communities. Creating this standard of safety helps to protect children's right to a free quality basic education. As schools and communities increase their resiliency to disaster, the likelihood that children can continue to attend school uninterrupted also increases.



The heaviest rains and floods in four decades hit northern provinces in August 2015, affecting at least 350,000 people, including 140,000 children. Save the Children offered emergency relief to residents in Quang Ninh province, one of the hardest-hit areas. We also provided school supplies and water-processing equipment to kindergarten and primary schools.



Photos: Save the Children

Children have a right to education.

Education Safe from Disasters will strive to ensure that children in the Asia-Pacific access a quality education even through times of disaster.

scasia.exposure.co

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