

A group of African school children, mostly boys, are standing in front of a wooden building. They are wearing orange short-sleeved shirts and brown shorts. One girl in the foreground is wearing a white dress with yellow floral patterns. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows the wooden structure of the building.

**act:onaid**

**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION THROUGH SCHOOLS**

# DRR thru Schools Project at a glance

- Multi-country project to reduce vulnerability through HFA implementation in 9 countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Malawi, Kenya, Ghana, Zambia, DRC, Haiti)
- Safe schoolchildren, communities & school buildings through knowledge, education and action on risk and hazards at local to national and international level - rooted in community
- International reach through UNISDR, inter-agency group, and Global Network of CSOs on DRR
- Primary stakeholders: Over 60 schools in selected districts in project countries – over 15,000 pupils and 300 teachers, and 80,000 community members

# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



# Community organisation around schools for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction



- Participatory vulnerability assessments & action plans
- Disaster Risk management committees
- Natural resources management clubs eg in Malawi
- Strengthening of existing community groups



# Safer school initiatives across all countries



- Retrofitting of classrooms
- Re-location of unsafe schools
- Access bridges

# Safer community initiatives

- Safe schools as shelters
- Flood control activities around schools in Malawi (eg dredging of silted river beds)
- Access bridges during floods



River de-silting in Malawi; a community activity inline with PVA community action plan



A low cost bridge built to ease access to school in Bangladesh

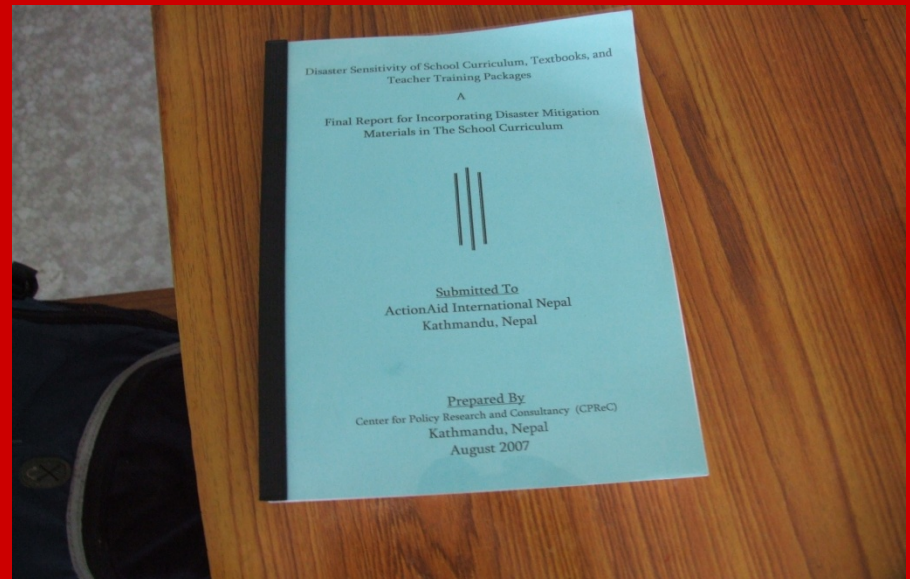


# Children as DRR agents



# DRR integrated in education curriculum

- Local curriculum for local risks (Malawi, Kenya, Ghana)
- Engagement with education and other actors for DRR in education curriculum





# National Policy work

- **Support for institutional frameworks eg National Platforms (Kenya, Malawi)**
- **Climate change adaptation & integration into DRR**
- **DRR in education curricula**
- **Building codes & safer schools**

# Issues/Lessons

- Inadequate awareness on HFA- need to simplify
- Crucial role of local government as interface with communities
- Exploit potential of education to reach out to other sectors
- Exploit potential role of children as agents of change
- Need for participatory vulnerability analysis at community and other levels
- Need to build bottom-up demand for local level advocacy and accountability



**Thank you for your attention**

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