

Concept note

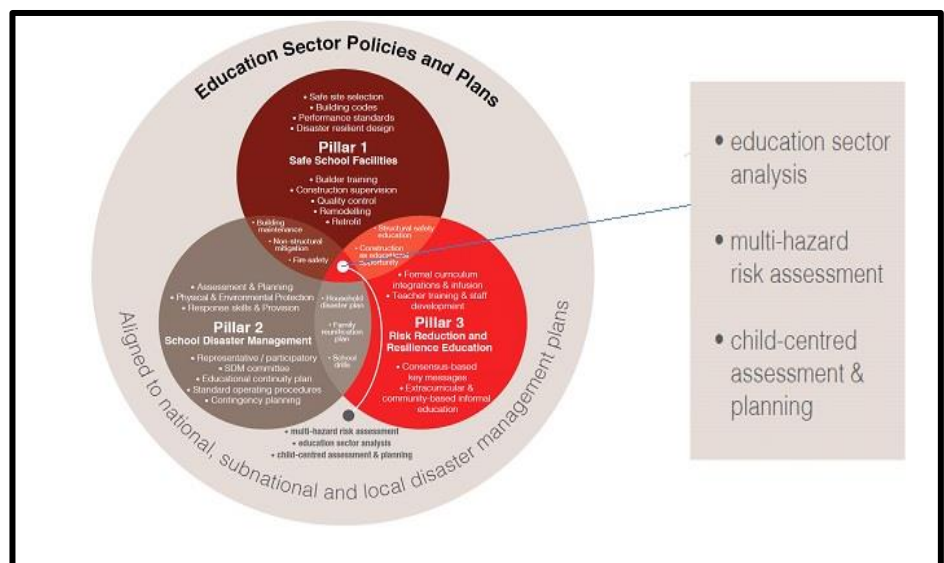
Southeast Asia Regional Lessons Learnt Workshop on School Safety Initiative and School-Based DRR Bangkok, Thailand

Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that all children, without discrimination, have the right to live, grow, develop and participate in a secure and decent environment. From a rights perspective, it is critical that disaster risk reduction programmes factor in the needs and realities of young children by providing support to their families and by educating children from an early age about disaster risks and preparedness.

Comprehensive School Safety has been a priority in disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Asia since 2006 with the launch of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) global campaign on Safer Schools. It consists of three pillars as shown in below diagram. As an integral part of a community, schools should work with their community to ensure that the school is safe, students are safe and the community is safe in the event of an emergency situation. It has been an important part of DRR in the education sector, addressing the risk of children in schools and community contexts.

The Comprehensive School Safety framework suggests a series of ongoing activities including identifying the hazards in and around a school; conducting drills; preparing contingency and disaster management plans which involve parents, teachers and students; and building on the capacities of an institution and individuals to cope with the challenges during an unforeseen event.



The Asian Ministerial Conferences for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) called upon all stakeholders to both recognize the meaningful role of youth and children in school safety and institutionalize the participation of children, adolescents and youths in school-based DRR activities. This includes trainings, simulation exercises and other preparedness measures and giving them representation in disaster management committees. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 recognizes children and youth as agents of change and calls upon all heads of states and governments, ministers and all stakeholders to give children and youth the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula.

ASEAN has also become increasingly active in school safety in recent years with the launch of the ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI) in 2013, under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). ASSI has become a priority for the AADMER Work Programme 2010-2015 under the purview of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) – Prevention and Mitigation Working Group, with the support of civil society organisations like Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision, and Mercy Malaysia. Through ASSI, the ASEAN Common Framework for Comprehensive School Safety (ACFCSS) was developed and endorsed by the ACDM in 2016 to be the guiding principle for ASEAN Member States in the implementation of school safety initiatives in the region, aligned with the global Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF).

Building upon the regional work in school safety in the recent years, the newly launched AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 has also taken ASSI as one of the three main outputs of its Priority Programme 2: “Build Safely.” The current AADMER Work Programme encourages the scaling up of school safety implementation in ASEAN countries and the mapping of school safety/DRR in education initiatives in the region to monitor the progress of implementation.

In support of the above global and regional initiatives, aligning with the framework of School Safety, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has been supporting National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies to implement school safety activities for many years. In 2015 IFRC developed a set of guidelines for practitioners in school safety, titled ‘Handbook for a School-Based Risk Reduction Initiative. Since its publication, the Handbook for School-Based Risk Reduction Initiative has been piloted in eight schools in Yangon, Myanmar by Myanmar Red Cross Society. [HYPERLINK https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/disaster-risk-reduction/school-based-risk-reduction](https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/disaster-risk-reduction/school-based-risk-reduction).

In this regard, IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) Bangkok would like to conduct a lessons learnt workshop, in collaboration with the ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI) and the Asia Pacific Coalition on School Safety (APCSS). The objective is to support Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) National Societies, its governmental counterparts and relevant partners to ensure further engagement in the school safety initiative.

This workshop is to identify the key learning points for further interventions and what can be collectively achieved in the region.

Specific Objectives of the Workshop

- a. Exchange knowledge and share best practices on school safety among partners, both within among National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and with government representatives, as well as other technical partners of the Asia-Pacific Coalition for School Safety;
- b. To initiate a mapping study of DRR in education/school safety initiatives in the Southeast Asian Region, particularly focusing on the type of programs, focus of intervention, scale, etc.; and

- c. To discuss key lessons in school safety implementation including problems/challenges, as well as recommendations for the next intervention and ways forward.

Approach to the Workshop

The workshop will combine presentations and discussion, to identify the processes of implementation of school safety risk reduction programs by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and relevant agencies, to better understand the challenges/problems, as well as recommendations of the programme. The overall flow of the workshop will follow the main pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, which it is hoped will help the participants to design a future school safety initiative in their countries. Participants will be encouraged to come with teaching materials and relevant materials to share among participants.

Expected Outcomes

- Participants will be able to understand the pillars of school safety and components.
- Participants will be able to understand the different practices of school safety initiatives from different partner.
- Participants will be able to exchanges the resources related school safety and apply to their own context as relevant.

Target Participants

40-50 participants from Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in Southeast Asia and key partners including government agencies.

Date and Venue

15 -16 September 2016, Bangkok, Thailand