

Brunei Darussalam Red Cross Society Working towards School Safety



Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society was established and recognized by the Government in 1991. Providing humanitarian services through its four branches with the support of around 1,300 volunteers, ninety percent of Brunei Red Crescent's volunteers are youth recruited from secondary schools, institutions of higher learning, and local universities as well as the private sector and the general public.



Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society recently launched an Action Plan to strengthen its strategy for the period 2017-2020 which includes youth and volunteer empowerment as well as school safety as core components. At school level, most activities are implemented through its School Cadets, a uniformed group of students recognized by the government. The Ministry of Education, through the Department of Curriculum Education (DOCE), provides continuous financial and logistical support to all cadet activities, which include leadership training, first aid, survival skills and jungle orienteering.



More schools are also being reached through the ongoing campaigns of the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society which are jointly conducted with relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Health (first aid, blood donor recruitment, awareness on non-communicable disease) and the Ministry of Communication (road safety). It also works with Bandar Seri Begawan Municipality as part of the Green Earth Project to promote initiatives such as planting trees and improved waste disposal behaviour among school children.

Through all these activities, Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society contributes to the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.



Outreach



School
15

Number of schools registered under Brunei Red Crescent School Cadets



Children
780 in total



Red Cross Youth
15

Units were established



Awareness sessions after school

Students learn about school safety as part of their school's co-curricular activities



Annual Youth Leaders Camp

Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent organizes a nationwide Youth Leader Camp, as part of the 'Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change' (YABC) programme.



First Aid training

First Aid trainings for school children and Brunei Red Crescent school cadets



Trees planting

Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Youth take part in climate change awareness campaigns by planting trees, as part of youth engagement in 'green projects.'



Evacuation training

School students participating in flood and fire evacuation training.



School safety plan

Students map hazards in school, evaluate accessibility, emergency assembly areas, fire exits, fire extinguishers, and conduct fire drills.

“Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent provides training and curriculum development to ensure that we have skilled human resources in various fields especially in first aid, disaster management and health promotion. We also provide a platform to support and help the work of disaster management, relief management capacity and storage management (warehousing). The Cadet School is comprised of students from the Youth Cadets aged between 12 and 18. In total, they make up 80 per cent of our members. We are hoping more people will come forward to join us or become a volunteer to provide not only first aid services, but much more.”

Sheikh Haji Abdulkadir Abdullah, Secretary General,
Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society.



Challenges

- 🔍 Limited understanding of school safety in schools and between stakeholders due to lack of communication.
- 🔍 Limited Youth engagement in school safety programme due to lack of trainers and school commitment.



Ways forward

- ➔ Raise awareness about the school safety to all stakeholders including schools to include co-curricular activities/ sessions as part of a full module.
- ➔ Expand Youth in School Safety Programmes by strengthening mechanisms and structures.
- ➔ Promote Youth Engagement in school safety by disseminating knowledge and skills in partnership with the education sector.

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