

Viet Nam Red Cross Society Working towards School Safety



The Viet Nam Red Cross Society is known as the largest humanitarian organization in Viet Nam. It is auxiliary to the government in the field of the emergency assistance and humanitarian relief, health care, as well as disaster preparedness and response. The organization operates through a wide network of 63 chapters and 17,816 branches in all provinces, districts and communes of the country. It is supported by around 360,224 volunteers and 3,615,404 youth members.



Viet Nam Red Cross Society contributes to the National Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) programme of the government launched in 2009 which includes a school safety component. It has been focusing on grade 4 and 5 primary school children (age 9-10) with an extra curriculum containing ten lessons, which has been conducted in 550 schools targeting 350,000 students. Trained students are encouraged to share basic disaster preparedness information with their parents, families, peers as well as others in their local community. This includes messages around road safety, health and hygiene practices.



In 2013, the Viet Nam Red Cross Society introduced a 'Safe School' module to help those in positions of school management including teachers and board members to better prepare for the event of a disaster. The Safe School module provides guidelines for the school management to develop a Disaster Risk Management plan for their schools and hence contributes to the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) Action Plan (Decision 4068). In addition, three primary schools have carried out the 'Youth in School Safety' programme using the IFRC toolkit targeting 45 students and 15 teachers.

In addition, Viet Nam Red Cross Society regularly provides support to schools affected by disasters, which include recovery work as well as upgrading the water and sanitation facilities and other risk mitigation measures in the school compounds. All of these interventions contribute to the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.



Outreach



School
553

Number of schools reached



Children
350, 045 in total



Flood preparedness simulation
Viet Nam Red Cross organizes a simulated flood response for students.



Evacuation exercise
Students and teachers participating in an evacuation exercise and school safety planning.



School safety training
Primary school teachers being trained on the Safe School module for school management to better prepare for disasters.



Campaigns and competitions
Competition for students on disaster and climate change knowledge.



Distributing disaster preparedness publications
Viet Nam Red Cross sharing 'An introduction to disaster preparedness for primary school children.'



Water and sanitation interventions
Session on disaster and climate change targeting primary school students.



Small-scale construction at school
Water tap facilities established in schools.



Promoting handwashing and hygiene
Viet Nam Red Cross Youth promoting proper handwashing techniques at school.

1
Safe Learning Facilities
Mitigation activity
Water and sanitation interventions

2
School Disaster Management
Simulation exercises
Training on Search and Rescue/ Evacuation
First Aid training

3
Risk Reduction and Resilience Education
Awareness sessions for student
Dissemination of awareness raising materials
Organizations of campaigns

“In 2017 we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Training and Education for implementing the School Safety programme. Viet Nam Red Cross became the key partner of choice for ‘Safe School’ actions at the national level. We would like to create more partnerships with other Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies including from Europe and across the ASEAN region, as well as other stakeholders to carry out Youth in School Safety programmes in future.”

Vu Phuong, Youth Director of Viet Nam Red Cross Society.



Challenges

- 🔍 Current school safety methodology is outdated.
- 🔍 Lack of sharing sessions between teachers and students (one-way training).
- 🔍 Inactive participation from students.
- 🔍 Lack of awareness of the role of Red Cross Youth in schools.
- 🔍 No continuing practices during and after the trainings.

Ways forward

- ➔ Engage youth as key players to lead the school safety with their own coping mechanisms, follow up actions, and reviews.
- ➔ Develop and adopt more child- friendly tools on school safety.

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