Preparing for disaster:
Protecting girls and boys in disasters
Warning to all citizens – a big storm is coming near the school, please take caution and safely make your way to the nearest safe point.

Sometimes I won’t be right next to you when a disaster comes around. That’s why it is important we have a plan in place.

There will always be an adult on the street that can help!

Remember, it is not safe to approach just anyone! Always look for a police officer, a doctor or a nurse, an emergency worker with a Red Cross / Red Crescent emblem, a teacher, or a neighbor you know well.

Like we always practice at home, you already know my phone number, our home address, and you know how to reach your granny, uncle and auntie if you can’t reach me. Your school will also help keep you safe.

Ton, like mommey told us we can follow these officers, they can tell us how to hide from the storm.

You should always take care of children! Just because they are smaller, then you, doesn’t mean they are less important. In fact, girls and boys deserve special care and it’s our job as adults to make sure they get it.

I’m sorry, sir. Child, are you OK?

Doctor! please take care of these children.
I'm a doctor. You see this sign? That's how you will always recognize us. Come with me inside to the school. It is a safe place and I will look at your knee.

There you are. Good as new!

Thank you!

What happened?

Ton fell and hurt his knee. But the doctor helped us out!

The storm has passed and we will now have a school assembly. Please make your way slowly and safely.

Good question, Fish. The school will stay open but for less hours for a few weeks. Some programs are not possible because of the damage. So we are now setting up a child friendly space.

We are thankful everyone has been kept safe. But there has been damage to many buildings in the neighbourhood.

Will our school stay open with all our after school programs?

Why is it only for children?

Because in these situations children can get injured when the storm damage is being cleaned-up, or some people might even try to hurt you if you are not in a safe place. It is important to have a place where girls and boys can play, learn new skills, and talk about your feelings and ideas with special teachers who can listen.

It is so good we are now together and we all stayed safe today. I am proud that you listened so well, had a plan, and talked to people you trusted.

I'm glad it's all over now! And I've learned a lot today about staying safe in case of a disaster.

It feels good that even as our neighborhood is cleaned up we can go to the child friendly space. I think I will talk to the teacher about how I felt today and it will be nice to play with our friends.
Below are some key messages to remember about protecting boys and girls in disasters. Study these well, these tips could make all the difference for you and your family!

**Key messages:**

- All girls and boys need to be protected
- Prioritise child protection in disaster preparedness and response
- Ensure adults and children know how to protect children, and can access help for any protection concerns
- Implement local, practical interventions to protect children

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