

DRR IN SCHOOLS

Schools are safe for children and promote a culture and practice of safety through their curricula.

DRR THROUGH SCHOOLS

Schools - as key local institutions – become hubs for the community as a whole to understand vulnerabilities, to act on them and on their root causes. Action on vulnerability is grounded at the local level and reaches district and national level through inclusive methodologies such as PVA.

BEYOND DISASTER

Communities have increased awareness of their vulnerabilities to disaster, as well as greater power to act and to demand action on the threats they are faced with. Their increased resilience and power not only enables communities to prevent and cope with future disasters, but to improve their lives today.

DRR in schools

DRR work **in** schools consisted of:

- Structural and repair work for improving the safety of schools/school compounds (or creating safe places in the school catchment area).
- Raising awareness of disasters and building the capacity of students, their families and school personnel to mobilize to prevent and respond to emergencies.
- Advocacy work lobbying for the inclusion of DRR in school curricula
- Increasing access to year-round education by making schools more resistant to disasters.



Information about disasters is often already included in schoolbooks (e.g. science or citizenship education texts), but tends to be mainly theoretical and poorly contextualized. Photo Silva Ferretti/ActionAid

DRR through schools: safe schools in safer communities

Can the root causes of risk be appreciated and addressed when focusing only on schools? Can schools be safe in communities that are not safe? The DRRS project highlighted the importance of:

- Developing an understanding within the community of the wider root causes and dynamics which create and impact upon vulnerability.
- Encouraging individuals and families to take action at the household level to reduce their vulnerability to disasters.
- Supporting communities to mobilise and demand action from local institutions and authorities on DRR priorities they themselves have identified.

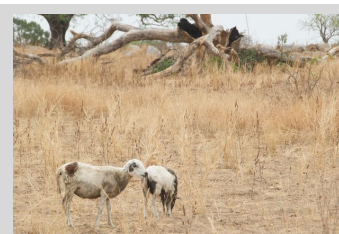


A new road in Andhra Pradesh, India, built by the government in response to community requests articulated through a PVA process. Photo Silva Ferretti/ActionAid

Beyond disaster, beyond schools: improving lives and livelihoods

The best DRRS work brought both immediate benefits to a community whilst helping people to reduce their vulnerability in the long term. Benefits included:

- Positive impact on people's livelihoods. DRR initiatives provided income and new skills for laborers employed in DRR projects, as well as enabling the reclamation of land previously lost to hazards such as flooding and bushfires, thus opening up new livelihood opportunities.
- Stronger citizenship and community voice. DRR initiatives resulted in a greater awareness amongst communities of rights, laws and local governance mechanisms. It also allowed formation of new alliances within and across communities, and capacity to express issues and lobby for action.
- Empowering the most vulnerable and marginalized, particularly women and girls (eg. promotion of women's rights and facilitation of women and girls' leadership in DRR initiatives).



Animals graze on land previously lost to bushfires in Ghana. The land was reclaimed through DRR initiatives resulting from community analysis of hazards. Photo Silva Ferretti/ActionAid