

Sub-Saharan Africa



Comprehensive School Safety Policy Overview 2024



Regional Overview

United Nations Member States	49
Submitted Surveys	12
Countries and Territories Represented	12
Validated Responses	9 (75%)

Countries Endorsing Frameworks

	Endorser of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework	5 (42%)
	Endorser of the Safe Schools Declaration	6 (50%)

Country Responses

Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe



Regional Report Notes

These findings are the result of a comprehensive school safety policy survey undertaken by GADRRRES and its members from July to November 2024. Responses are self-reported by governments and partner organisations. Some countries had an appropriate authority, for example an official in the Ministry of Education, also validate the responses.

For full report findings, including national profile reports that have been released to the public, visit <https://gadrrres.net/css-policy-survey/css-policy-survey-2024>
Not all countries release their reports to the public.

This regional profile report summarises the percentage of responding countries for survey questions and responses. In the report tables, # refers to the number of countries that responded to the question. Aggregate reports are generated once 25% of a region's countries have submitted a survey.

For more information on region definitions and survey questions used in this report see the last page of this report. For more information about Comprehensive School Safety Targets and Indicators, see <https://gadrrres.net/css-targets-and-indicators/>



Risks and Impacts Affecting Education Sector

	Responding Countries, % (# = 12)			
	Damage	Closures	Injuries	Deaths
Earthquakes, landslides, rock falls, avalanches and similar	42%	42%	25%	17%
Tsunami	0%	0%	0%	0%
Flooding, coastal erosion, sea level rise	100%	92%	42%	42%
Wildfire, bushfire	42%	33%	25%	25%
Building fire	58%	42%	25%	25%
Extreme temperatures	0%	17%	17%	0%
Strong winds, storms, or cyclones	83%	75%	50%	33%
Biological and health hazards	0%	58%	50%	33%
War, conflict, or armed attacks on schools	67%	58%	58%	50%
Bullying and violence	8%	33%	67%	17%
Technological hazards	8%	8%	8%	0%
Everyday dangers and threats	33%	25%	58%	42%
Climate change impacts, in general, or the exacerbation of other risks due to climate change	83%	75%	58%	50%















Data Collection on Impacts

	Responding Countries, %					
	Tracked Consistently (# = 12)			Data disaggregated		
	No	Somewhat	Yes	#	Somewhat	Age, gender, & disability
	✗	✗	✓		✗	✓
Deaths at school	58%	17%	25%	12	8%	8%
Serious injuries at school	58%	25%	17%	12	17%	17%
Illnesses and disease outbreaks	50%	33%	17%	12	8%	17%
Schools heavily damaged or destroyed	33%	33%	33%			



Access to Education

None  Limited  Yes 

	Responding Countries, %											
	Gender			Disability			Immigrants and refugees			Minorities		
												
Access to education protected	(# = 12)			(# = 12)			(# = 12)			(# = 12)		
	0%	33%	67%	0%	42%	58%	17%	25%	58%	8%	33%	58%
Enrollment equity	(# = 11)			(# = 10)			(# = 6)			(# = 5)		
	9%	45%	45%	30%	20%	50%	17%	17%	67%	20%	60%	20%
Needs considered in planning	(# = 12)			(# = 12)			(# = 12)			(# = 12)		
	8%	33%	58%	0%	50%	50%	50%	25%	25%	50%	33%	17%



Funding

No funding -- Inconsistent \$ Consistent, but insufficient \$\$ Sufficient \$\$\$

	Responding Countries, % (# = 12)			
	--	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$
Safe school construction	8%	50%	33%	0%
Response preparedness	33%	42%	8%	8%
Health, nutrition and well-being	8%	42%	33%	8%
Child protection and violence prevention	17%	50%	25%	8%
Risk Reduction and Resilience Education Programming	33%	42%	17%	0%
Disaster recovery	25%	42%	17%	8%
Education in emergencies	33%	33%	17%	8%
Climate change adaptation	25%	50%	17%	0%



Enabling Systems and Policies

No.	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	Comprehensive School Safety Indicators
A1 (5 questions)	0%	8%	58%	17%	17%	Enabling policies and legal frameworks address comprehensive school safety for all hazards and risks.
A2 (11 questions)	8%	50%	25%	8%	8%	Child-centered risk assessment is in place at all levels in the education sector.
A3 (4 questions)	8%	17%	8%	17%	50%	Education authority provides effective leadership and coordination for comprehensive school safety.
A4 (9 questions)	8%	33%	33%	25%	0%	Sustained funding is in place to reduce education sector risks, maintain educational continuity and support risk reduction and resilience programming.
A5 (10 questions)	0%	8%	58%	25%	8%	Monitoring and evaluation of comprehensive school safety is based upon data and evidence.



Policy and Leadership

Policy	Responding Countries, % (# = 12)		
	Not addressed	Weak or unenforced	Robust and enforced
Safer learning facilities	0%	83%	17%
School safety management	0%	92%	8%
Educational continuity management	17%	58%	25%
Risk reduction and resilience education	17%	67%	17%
Education sector climate change adaptation and mitigation	42%	42%	17%

Focal Point	#	Responding Countries, %		
		None	Voluntary	Designated
Safer learning facilities	12	25%	8%	67%
School safety management	12	25%	8%	67%
Educational continuity management	12	8%	17%	75%
Risk reduction and resilience education	12	25%	8%	67%
Education sector climate change adaptation and mitigation	12	33%	8%	58%



Pillar 1: Policies for Safer Learning Facilities

No.	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	Comprehensive School Safety Indicators
B1 (11 questions)	0%	8%	33%	33%	25%	Regulation and monitoring systems guide the safe site selection, design and construction of new schools.
B2 (9 questions)	8%	0%	58%	33%	0%	Existing unsafe schools are systematically identified and upgraded or replaced (including WASH facilities).
B3 (4 questions)	25%	8%	50%	17%	0%	Education authorities promote routine maintenance and non-structural mitigation for increased safety and protection of school occupants and investments.
B4 (5 questions)	25%	25%	17%	17%	17%	Policies and planning limit disruption of education due to use of schools as temporary shelters or collective centers, during the school year.
B5 (2 questions)	8%	50%	33%	0%	8%	Children are protected from death, injury and harm on the way to school.



New School Construction

Risk	Risk Addressed in Regulations, % (# = 12)			
	No	Somewhat	Robust	Unknown or Not Applicable
	✗	✓	✓	—
Flood	8%	33%	50%	8%
Wildfire	8%	25%	42%	25%
Sea level rise	8%	25%	42%	25%
Earthquakes	25%	17%	25%	33%
Building fire	0%	58%	42%	0%
High winds	0%	58%	33%	8%
Extreme temperatures	8%	58%	33%	0%

Policy for Schools as Shelter



Policies or Guidance	#	Responding Countries, %		
		No	Being developed	Yes
		✗	✓	✓
Identification of schools for shelter	12	58%	25%	17%
Educational continuity	12	58%	17%	25%
Student safety	12	58%	17%	25%
Reimbursement for costs	12	67%	17%	17%



School Retrofit & Replacement

Assessment & prioritization: (N=)	Responding Countries, %		
	None	Limited	Systematic
	✗	✓	✓
	8%	42%	50%

Safety Upgrades: (N=)	Responding Countries, %		
	None	In progress	Complete
	✗	✓	✓
	17%	75%	8%



Pillar 2: School Safety & Educational Continuity Management

No.	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	Comprehensive School Safety Indicators
C1 (7 questions)	8%	17%	25%	17%	33%	Education authorities have robust, participatory plans for risk management, risk reduction, and response preparedness.
C2 (10 questions)	8%	0%	50%	25%	17%	Schools have robust participatory plans for risk management, risk reduction, and response-preparedness.
C3 (14 questions)	0%	0%	33%	33%	33%	Children's rights in the education sector are equally assured for children of all gender, disability, language or cultural groups, and at all stages of development.
C4 (4 questions)	67%	8%	25%	0%	0%	Education sector has standard operating procedures and require regular drills for disasters and emergencies to improve school safety planning.
C5 (11 questions)	0%	0%	17%	42%	42%	Education sector has robust systems and policies for school health and nutrition.



Planning Elements

		Responding Countries, %		
		Not supported	Limited guidance	Robust guidance
Guidelines support schools in:	(#)	✗	⚡	✓
Risk assessment	12	8%	75%	17%
Risk reduction	12	8%	67%	25%
Response preparedness	12	8%	58%	33%
Educational continuity	12	8%	58%	33%
Climate change adaptation and climate action	12	42%	42%	17%
Actively including child participation while developing plans and measures	12	33%	50%	17%
Standard operating procedures for disasters and emergencies	12	8%	50%	42%

Training and Drills



Responding Countries, % (# = 12)			
	Not practiced	At least annually	Each term
Drills Required	✗	⚡	✓
Fire drills	67%	25%	8%
Other drills	67%	33%	0%
Full simulation drills	67%	17%	0%
Conducted for children of all ages and disabilities	67%	25%	0%

Health & Sanitation



Responding Countries, % (# = 12)			
	None or limited	Some	Robust
	✗	⚡	✓
Health policies and systems	0%	58%	42%



Pillar 3: Risk Reduction and Resilience Education

No.	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	Comprehensive School Safety Indicators
D1 (3 questions)	25%	0%	8%	25%	42%	National Disaster Management Authority and Education Authority have nationally adopted, consensus- and evidence based, action-oriented key messages as foundation for formal and non-formal education.
D2 (4 questions)	0%	8%	33%	0%	58%	Climate-aware risk reduction, resilience, and well-being education is included in regular formal curriculum.
D3 (9 questions)	0%	17%	33%	33%	17%	Non-formal education for students and families addresses climate-aware, risk reduction, resilience and well-being.
D4 (5 question)	0%	42%	25%	33%	0%	Teachers' capacity to facilitate student learning for climate-aware risk reduction, resilience, and well-being is developed and assessed.
D5 (5 question)	42%	0%	0%	8%	50%	Student learning outcomes for climate-aware risk reduction, resilience, and well-being education are monitored and evaluated.
D6 (5 question)	42%	0%	0%	8%	50%	Schools have sufficient education materials for teaching risk reduction, resilience, and well being.



National Curriculum

	Responding Countries, %								
	#	Content Coverage		#	Student learning assessed		#	Teachers trained	
		Primary	Secondary		Primary	Secondary		Available for some	Mandatory
		✔	✔		✔	✔		✘	✔
Disaster risk reduction	12	67%	67%	12	42%	42%	12	75%	8%
Climate change, action, justice and the environment	12	67%	75%	12	50%	58%	12	58%	25%
Education for sustainable development	12	67%	67%	12	50%	58%	12	67%	25%
Health and well-being	12	92%	92%	12	58%	58%	12	67%	25%
Social-emotional learning	12	50%	50%	12	58%	58%	12	83%	8%



Pillar 3: Risk Reduction and Resilience Education



National Key Messages

	Responding Countries, % (# = 12)
National Disaster Management Authority and Education authorities have nationally adopted, consensus- and evidence-based, action-oriented key messages	17%

National Key Messages		
Adaptation and Use	(#)	Responding Countries, %
Adapted for disabilities	12	67%
Available for linguistic minorities	12	50%
Used as foundation for formal education in schools	12	33%
Used for non-formal education	12	25%



Non-formal Education

Content Area	Responding Countries, % (# = 12)		
	In school assemblies and experiential learning	In classrooms at teacher's discretion	In school clubs, after school activities and other extra-curricular activities
Disaster risk reduction	58%	58%	83%
Climate change, action, justice and the environment	50%	58%	75%
Sustainable development	50%	58%	42%
Health and well-being	67%	58%	75%
Social-emotional learning	50%	58%	83%



Outreach to Families

Content Area	Responding Countries, % (# = 12)		
	None or very few schools	Some schools	Most or all schools
Disaster risk reduction	58%	17%	25%
Climate change, action, justice and the environment	50%	25%	17%
Health and well-being	25%	50%	25%
Social-emotional learning	25%	58%	17%



Regional Report Definitions and Question Links

Region	Countries within Region
Africa	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Asia and the Pacific	Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, North Korea, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Latin America & the Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela
Middle East and North Africa	Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Western & Northern Europe & North America	Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America

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*To review full text of survey questions, see survey question previews, available in multiple languages, at:
<https://gadrres.net/css-policy-survey/css-policy-survey-2024>

