

# Every Child, All-Hazards

## Connecting frameworks for resilient education

**Conflict and disasters disrupt learning for millions of children every year.** In 2022/23, an average of eight attacks on education were recorded daily.<sup>1</sup> In 2024, 242 million children experienced disruption to their learning due to climate impacts.<sup>2</sup> And right now, 234 million crisis-affected children are in urgent need of education support.<sup>3</sup>

**These crises do not occur in siloes.** Climate change has been linked to increased conflict,<sup>4</sup> with climate stressors such as droughts and floods exacerbating instability and displacement. At the same time, over two-thirds of conflict-affected countries experiencing attacks on education are also among those at highest risk from climate and environmental hazards,<sup>5</sup> further demonstrating this connection. Refugee camps are also often located in areas with some of the greatest risks of climate impacts,<sup>6</sup> and humanitarian emergencies can trigger the spread of disease.<sup>7</sup> The combination of hazards undermine the capacity of education systems to absorb shocks and ensure continuity of learning, as it impacts students, communities but also the educational staff.

**Communities themselves increasingly look to schools as anchors of resilience,** providing safe spaces for children and adolescents and serving as hubs for wider community preparedness. For schools to fulfil this role, they must be both protected and supported to be prepared. This requires ensuring that conflict, violence, climate change, health emergencies, and other risks are addressed together within education planning and practice in collaboration with other sectors. In other words, **an all-hazards approach.**

**Every crisis puts children's safety and learning at risk.** In response, school safety initiatives must be as comprehensive as the crises they seek to address. The [Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector](#) (GADRRRES)<sup>1</sup> encourages all governments to advance this all-hazards approach and protect their education systems by endorsing and implementing the **Safe Schools Declaration and the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.**

<sup>1</sup> GADRRRES is a multi-stakeholder alliance composed of UN agencies, international non-governmental agencies, humanitarian and development organisations and networks, youth organisations, donors/multilateral funds, and private sector organisations that work together to advocate in support of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.



## WHAT IS THE SAFE SCHOOLS DECLARATION?

The [Safe Schools Declaration](#) is a landmark commitment to protect education from attack, affirming the centrality of schools and universities as spaces of learning and safety even in times of war. Concretely, the Declaration is an inter-governmental political commitment to protect students, teachers, schools, and universities during armed conflict, setting out commitments that endorsing States agree to take to strengthen the protection of education from attack and ensure the safety and continuity of education. These commitments are detailed in the [Guidelines for protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict](#). Over 120 countries endorse the Safe Schools Declaration.

## WHAT IS THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY FRAMEWORK?

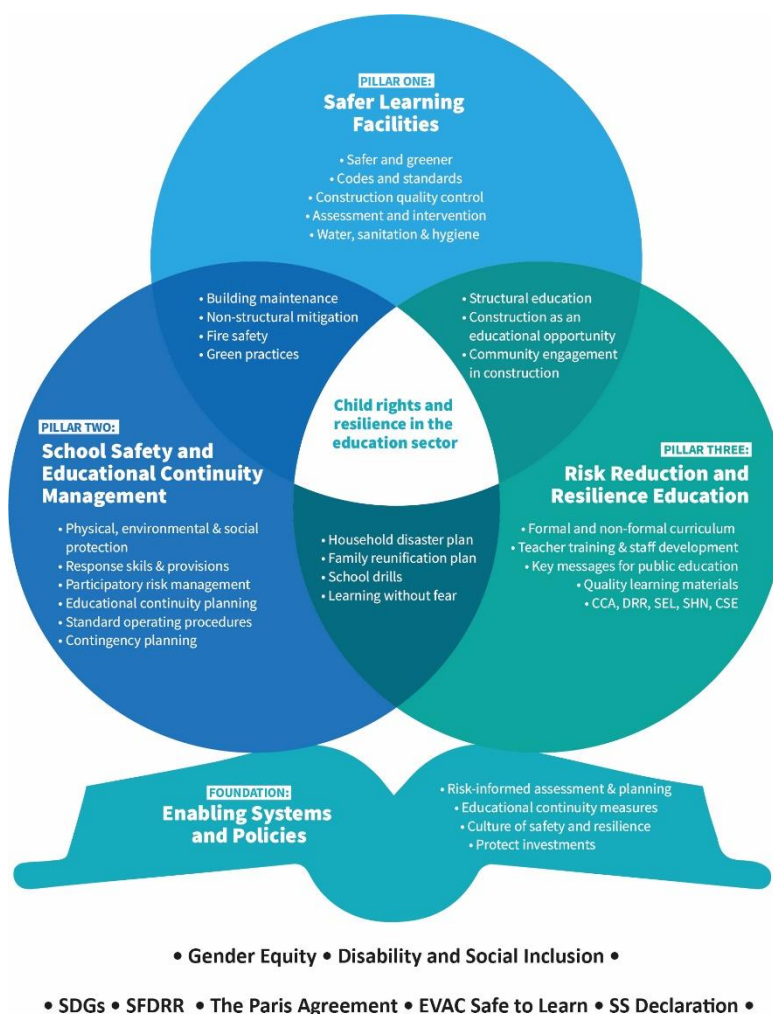
The [Comprehensive School Safety Framework](#) is an all-hazards, all-risks approach to protecting children and education, emphasising that only by considering the full spectrum of risks can we ensure that schools remain open, safe, and inclusive even in the midst of a crisis. This ensures that considerations about preventing attacks on learners, teachers, and schools; protecting child health; and promoting climate adaptation in education are all part of resilient education strategies, a key adaptation outcome.

The Framework sets out a tangible, practical and proven roadmap of action to strengthen the resilience of education systems, support education continuity and provide children with the skills, knowledge and behaviours they need to prepare for and respond to all shocks and stresses, including conflict and violence. It is composed of:

- **Foundation:** Enabling Systems and Policies (e.g. including risk reduction in national education policies).
- **Pillar 1:** Safer Learning Facilities (e.g. ensuring school buildings are resilient)
- **Pillar 2:** School Safety and Educational Continuity Management (e.g. making plans for different hazards)
- **Pillar 3:** Risk Reduction and Resilience Education (e.g. supporting children with knowledge and skills on different hazards)

The pillars are further illustrated in the diagram.

By endorsing the Framework, States commit to put efforts into protecting schools from any risk. Over [80 countries](#) have endorsed the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.



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## HOW ARE THE FRAMEWORK AND DECLARATION CONNECTED?

The **Comprehensive School Safety Framework** and the **Safe Schools Declaration** are unique yet complementary. The Comprehensive School Safety Framework provides a detailed roadmap for protecting learners, educators, and education systems from all types of hazards, including conflict and violence. **It works as an umbrella.** One significant risk linked to conflict and violence is the threat of attacks on educators and education systems, which is specifically addressed by the Safe Schools Declaration.

The Comprehensive School Safety Framework explicitly recognises the Safe Schools Declaration as a critical commitment to promoting peacebuilding and social cohesion in schools, particularly by integrating strategies that protect education in times of armed conflict. In practice, some of the Safe Schools Declaration commitments are implemented within the Comprehensive School Safety Framework as a foundational framework that also addresses the intersecting impacts of climate change, armed conflict, and other hazards.



## WHY SHOULD GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER BOTH THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY FRAMEWORK AND THE SAFE SCHOOLS DECLARATION WHEN IT COMES TO SCHOOL SAFETY?

### CONTEXTUALISE ATTACKS ON EDUCATION WITHIN OTHER HAZARDS AND RISKS TO LEARNING.

By endorsing and implementing both the Safe Schools Declaration and the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, governments can safeguard education from conflict and violence as part of a strategic, all-hazards approach. This contextualises the Safe Schools Declaration within other hazards affecting education systems, such as the climate crisis, health hazards, or technological risks, responding to the fact that conflict can interact with other barriers to learning. Advancing the Safe Schools Declaration as part of an all-hazards approach could, therefore, strengthen the overall effectiveness and implementation of the Declaration.



### **PROTECT EDUCATION FROM ATTACK AS PART OF SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING, EMBEDDING SCHOOL SAFETY IS EDUCATION PLANNING.**

Implementing the Safe Schools Declaration as part of the systems strengthening approach outlined in the Comprehensive School Safety Framework also helps ensure governments consider protecting education from attack as part of their broader education resilience and school safety agendas. This can help to ensure that the Safe Schools Declaration is grounded in education policy, as it becomes part of the education sector's overarching strategic approach to school safety. In turn, this could help to reduce fragmented implementation as, in some contexts, the Safe Schools Declaration is led by the defence sector while the Comprehensive School Safety Framework is led by education or disaster risk reduction authorities. Moreover, both the CSSF and Safe Schools Declaration should be integrated into education-sector planning and budgeting processes (e.g. Education Management Information System, teacher training, school infrastructure) to ensure coherence across education, DRR, and security actors.



### **HELP KEEP CHILDREN OUT OF HARM'S WAY AND BUILD THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND OPPORTUNITIES.**

Implementing the Comprehensive School Safety Framework could help as a preventative measure ahead of conflict and violence, further advancing the aims of the Declaration. For instance, educational continuity planning (Pillar 2 of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework) combined with other strategies, can keep children in school and, in turn, help protect children from recruitment to armed forces. As noted in the Paris Principles: 'Children at risk of recruitment are often afforded some level of protection within educational settings...In some contexts, schools educate children about armed forces and groups to enable them to recognise attempts to recruit them or to understand the risks of association.'<sup>18</sup> Strengthening school infrastructure can similarly reduce the amount of time children are out of school (due to conflict or non-conflict related hazards), possibly reducing their likelihood of dropping out or be forced recruited.

### **LEAVE NOTHING AND NO ONE BEHIND.**

The Comprehensive School Safety Framework can also support implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration through school improvement. For instance, school construction guidelines that are conflict sensitive and confirm the protection of schools from attack could help to strengthen the overall resilience of school infrastructure. Finally, Pillar 3 of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework encourages the integration of peace education into the curriculum to foster a culture of peace and strengthen social cohesion, a strategy under the Safe Schools Declaration.



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## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? DEVELOPING A NATIONAL MULTISTAKEHOLDER SCHOOL SAFETY COORDINATION BODY

An all-hazards approach to school safety requires whole-of-government input, including the Ministries of Education, Environment, Defence, Health, and Finance, as well as National Disaster Management Agencies. That is why the Comprehensive School Safety Framework is designed to foster intersectional coordination, with a key implementation strategy being the establishment of a national multistakeholder school safety coordination body. This group is responsible for designing, leading, and monitoring implementation of cross-government actions on school safety, and should work both on the Comprehensive School Safety Framework and Safe Schools Declaration.

This coordination body can also serve as a platform to align commitments under the CSSF, the Safe Schools Declaration, and national climate-adaptation frameworks.

## CASE STUDIES ON THE COMPLEMENTARITY OF THE TWO FRAMEWORKS

### COLOMBIA

In June 2025 in Colombia, El Grupo Regional de Educación para América Latina y el Caribe (GRE-LAC) together with Plan International, Save the Children and other members and supported by GADRRRES, GCPEA and ECHO coordinated a workshop for Andean Community countries entitled '*Forging safe horizons for disaster-resilient education, violence and conflicts in the Andean countries*'. This workshop supported integration of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework and Safe Schools Declaration to advance an all-hazards approach to resilient education. As part of the workshop and its Pro Tempore Presidency, Colombia affirmed commitment to both the Safe Schools Declaration and the Comprehensive School Safety Framework and reaffirmed its commitment to implement a school safety roadmap considering poverty, climate change, armed conflict, and migration.<sup>2</sup>

### GUATEMALA

In September 2025, the Guatemalan Ministry of National Education (MINEDUC) brought together representatives from key ministries and regional authorities, along with cooperation agencies and humanitarian actors, to strengthen technical and institutional capacities and promote an inter-institutional and comprehensive approach to school safety. This effort was also done in collaboration with GRE-LAC, Plan International, Save the Children and other key partners. Supported by GADRRRES, GCPEA and INEE.

In line with the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, the Safe Schools Declaration, and the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies' Minimum Standards, the workshop helped reaffirm the Guatemalan Ministry of Education's leadership in the development of a comprehensive public policy on school safety, using an all-hazards and rights-based approach. Among the next steps agreed upon is the coordination of the national plan with the Comprehensive Regional School Safety Strategy, promoting the progressive implementation of the CSSF in the most vulnerable areas of the country.

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<sup>2</sup> For more details, see: <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/newsroom/news/colombia-reafirma-su-compromiso-declaratoria-escuelas-seguras>.



## WHAT NEXT?

Every child should be safe at school. Every educator should be safe at school. **Every school should be a safe school.**

This reality is only possible through comprehensive protection of education from all hazards and risks, no matter the cause. To help realise this reality, all governments should:

- **Endorse<sup>9</sup> and implement the Comprehensive School Safety Framework** to develop strong, safe, and resilient education systems.
- **Sign and implement the Safe Schools Declaration** to protect education from attack.
- **Develop or update National School Safety Strategies**, ensuring they align with the three pillars of the CSSF and include actions from the [Guidelines for protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict](#).
- **Establish a National Multistakeholder School Safety Coordination Body** to facilitate coordination and implementation of both the Framework and the Declaration.
- Ensure **meaningful participation of children, youth, and teachers** in developing, implementing, and monitoring National School Safety Strategies, in line with the CSSF's inclusive and locally led principles.
- **Mobilise dedicated, grant-based finance** for school safety and education resilience through domestic and international climate, development, humanitarian and education funding streams.

## FURTHER RESOURCES

- [Comprehensive School Safety Framework](#)
- [Global Status of School Safety: Results of the 2024 Comprehensive School Safety Policy Survey](#)
- [Introduction to Comprehensive School Safety Quickstart Guide](#) (Available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Bahasa Indonesia](#))
- Champion Countries: [Peru](#) and [Costa Rica](#)
- [Comprehensive School Safety Resource Library](#)

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) (2024). [Education Under Attack 2024](#).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2024), [Learning interrupted](#).

<sup>3</sup> Education Cannot Wait (2025). [State of Education for Crisis-Affected Children and Adolescents: Access and Learning Outcomes, Global Estimates 2025 Update | Education Cannot Wait](#).

<sup>4</sup> UNFCCC (2022). [Conflict and Climate | UNFCCC](#)

<sup>5</sup> UNICEF (2021). [The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index](#). UNICEF.

<sup>6</sup> S. Fransen, A. Werntges, A. Hunns, M. Sirenko, & T. Comes, Refugee settlements are highly exposed to extreme weather conditions, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 121 (3) e2206189120, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2206189120> (2024).

<sup>7</sup> D Cantor et al, 'Understanding the health needs of internally displaced persons: A scoping review', Journal of Migration and Health, Volume 4, 2021, 100071, ISSN 2666-6235, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmh.2021.100071>.

<sup>8</sup> Paris Principles Steering Group (2022), [Paris Principles Operational Handbook](#).

<sup>9</sup> For details on how to endorse the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, see <https://gadrres.net/get-involved/endorse-the-cssf-for-governments>

## Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES)

GADRRRES was established in 2013 to provide a comprehensive approach to school safety. It is a multi-stakeholder alliance composed of UN agencies, international non-governmental agencies, humanitarian and development organisations and networks, youth organisations, donors/multilateral funds, and private sector organisations that work together to advocate for and support child rights, resilience, and sustainability in the education sector across the humanitarian, development, peace nexus. GADRRRES has regional networks across the globe. **Contact: [gadrres@gmail.com](mailto:gadrres@gmail.com).**