

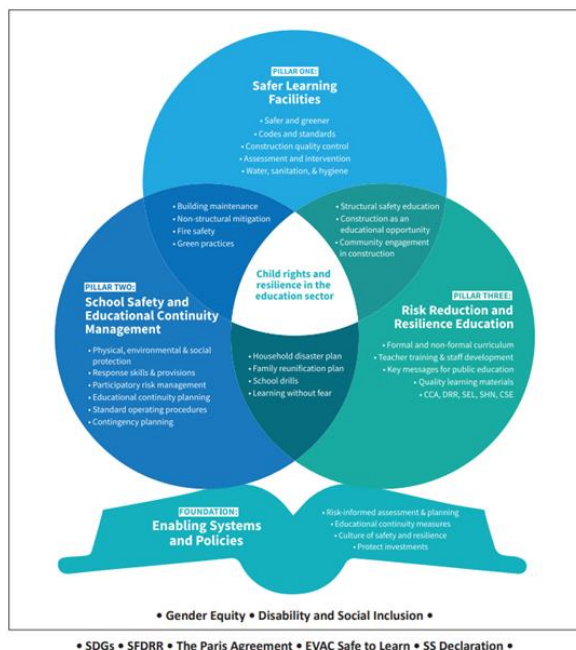
Inclusive Comprehensive School Safety: Strengthening Resilience for Children and Youth in all hazards

Side Event Outcome Document

The global education crisis is worsening, and without preparedness and resilience, millions of children's futures are at risk.

In 2024 alone, [242 million children experienced school disruptions due to extreme climate events](#). Right now, [234 million school-aged children in crises urgently need support to access quality education](#). As we look ahead, pandemics, technological crises, disasters, conflict, violence, and other hazards will continue to threaten the right to education.

But while crises are sadly inevitable, the adverse impacts on children's learning are not. Experience and expertise gathered from decades of work in school safety and resilience have culminated in a framework for a different future: the [Comprehensive School Safety Framework for Child Rights and Resilience in the Education Sector 2022-2030 \(CSSF\)](#).



At the **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** in June 2025, the [Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector](#) (GADRRRES) organised a side event to demonstrate effective implementation of the CSSF across the globe. The discussion was framed by the key findings of the 2024 [Comprehensive School Safety Policy Survey](#), which provides a rich analysis of the global status of school safety. Next, government representatives highlighted regional initiatives that are galvanising action across Central Asia, the Pacific, and the Caribbean. GADRRRES members then united to showcase evidence-based, replicable examples of school safety policy and programmes across the world. Finally, youth voice provided a final and determined call to action to make every school a safe learning environment.

This outcome document highlights the key messages, evidence, and examples shared during the session. The intention is to provide a rich resource to support implementation of the [Geneva Call for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), the outcome of the 2025 Global Platform.

KEY MESSAGES

- **Every child has the right to a safe and quality education.** Education is the foundation for a safe, resilient, and prosperous future.
 - **Disasters and crises are putting the right to learn at risk.** Disruptions are growing as the climate crisis deepens, conflict increases, and health emergencies become more acute.
 - **There is strong evidence of what works to make schools safe.** 85 countries now endorse the Comprehensive School Safety Framework. Examples of best practice in implementing the Framework can be seen from countries across the globe, from [Peru](#) to the [Pacific](#).
 - **Working on Disaster Risk Reduction from the children's and youth's perspectives at school is key** to seed a new generation of resilient citizens.
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**"Include us. Empower us. Work with us.
Together, we can ensure every child and
youth learns in a safe and resilient school."**

Rio Ananda, youth activist from Indonesia

LESSONS LEARNED & CALLS TO ACTION

Multi-sectoral and regional coordination at all levels and with all actors is essential for comprehensive school safety.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- Ensure meaningful coordination between different organisations, projects, donors and alliances to optimise investment and impact at the national and regional levels.
- Promote comprehensive integration of diverse alliances and networks to broaden the perspective on safe schools and donors' meaningful participation.
- Strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration between education, disaster management, health and civil society at national and local levels to protect the safety, well-being and resilience of children, educators, caregivers and communities.
- Support public authorities in establishing strong collaboration and coordination mechanisms between education, disaster management, health and civil protection structures at national and local levels to protect the safety, well-being, resilience and education/development of children, educators, caregivers and communities at large.

School safety is not sustainable without public policy.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- Endorse the Comprehensive School Safety Framework at the national level and use the three pillars and foundation to guide safe schools policies.
- Embed child-related priorities into national policies and strategies such as national education and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and developmental plans and policies.
- Align all safe schools policies with regional regulatory frameworks on school safety.

We must invest in school safety as a shared responsibility to ensure a safer learning environment for children, even in times of crisis.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- Increase national and international disaster and climate investments to address children's safety and resilience.
- Make school safety more affordable through the use of technologies, innovative approaches, and participatory methods.
- Invest in safe, inclusive, green and climate resilient infrastructure, predicated investment on school safety assessments and upgrading educational buildings and facilities in line with appropriate standards.
- Ensure all investments are tied to need; do not waste resources developing products that people cannot buy or obtain in the market, and do not make products that are dependent on resources from donors.

Inclusive comprehensive school safety must be gender-responsive and community-led.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- Include gender-sensitive approaches as essential elements of DRR initiatives to prevent gender-based violence, promote inclusion, and protect the rights and dignity of every learner.
- Incorporate gender analysis into all stages of school safety planning, ensuring that responses to violence, disasters, and conflict consider the differentiated needs, roles, and vulnerabilities of all students.
- Elevate the voices of students, parents, teachers, and community leaders, especially from marginalised groups, to co-create context-relevant solutions.

Meaningful child and youth participation is essential for effective and sustainable disaster risk management approaches and comprehensive school safety.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- Empower children and youth as agents of change: meaningfully engage children, adolescents and young adults throughout the disaster risk management cycle, particularly in decisions that affect them, their life and future.

- Connect more children and youth with their respective governments and secure concrete and realistic commitments.
- Involve children and teachers in regularly updating safety plans as critical actors for building resilient education systems that leave no one behind.

We need evidence to transform schools into truly safe spaces. Robust, intersectoral data systems are essential to accurately identify the barriers that children and adolescents face in accessing, remaining in, and thriving within safe learning environments.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- Support governments, development agencies, implementing organisations, and education stakeholders to strengthen and integrate information systems across education, health, child protection, and disaster risk management.
- Prioritise analyses that demonstrate how multiple threats such as violence, disasters, displacement, or poverty impact students' educational pathways and psychosocial wellbeing.
- Present data effectively to inform the design, monitoring, and financing of education policies, programs, and safe school initiatives.
- Invest in integrated data, rigorous analysis, and strategic use of information to advance the right to safe, inclusive, and resilient education for all.

Integrating risk reduction and resilience education into formal education systems is impactful and needs to be institutionalised in many more countries around the world.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- Integrate DRR and climate change into educational standards and national curricula, horizontally across all possible subjects through the grade levels.
- Build teacher capacities through systematic training on DRR and climate change, equipping educators to deliver resilience education effectively by consistently employing interactive and participatory pedagogies.

“We call on UNDRR to integrate school safety into its strategic plans and priorities in the acceleration of the Sendai Framework. We must increase investments in school safety and resilience...This work requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to ensure no child is left behind in times of crisis.”



Image Credit: Anastasia Rodopoulou

Mr Isikeli Oko, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Education and Training, Tonga

CASE STUDIES

Presentations that were shared during the event, providing clear, evidence-based, and replicable case studies that detail implementation of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.

[Gender-Responsive School and Community Safety Initiative \(GRSCSI\)](#) (Plan International and the Regional Education Group for Latin America and the Caribbean)

All CSSF Pillars

This initiative has contributed tools and innovations implemented across schools and communities in South Asia and Latin America that strengthen inclusive and gender-responsive school safety, as well as best practices in regional coordination among multiple actors. Resources include: 1) CSSF Implementation Toolkit: Guides schools and communities to assess and act on safety risks through a gender lens; 2) Comprehensive School Safety Action Plan (CSAP): School-specific plans co-created with students, teachers, and communities; 3) Family Preparedness Plan (FPP): Connects school safety with home preparedness; 4) Student Task Force-led DRR activities: Peer-led drills, risk mapping, and awareness sessions; and 5) Regional Capacity Building Model: Cross-country platform for youth and technical staff engagement.

[Global Context and Sierra Leone's 2023 Safe School Policy](#) (UNICEF)

All CSSF Pillars

This presentation highlights available resources to shape and align global work on school safety, as well as showcasing how the CSSF aligns with policy responses in Sierra Leone.

[Safe Schools Common Approach and Safer Learning Facilities](#) (Save the Children)

CSSF Pillar 1

This presentation details Save the Children's [Safe Schools Common Approach](#) and its practical application in supporting the development of safer school infrastructure.

[Disaster-Proofing Schools in Mozambique](#) (UNESCO)

CSSF Pillar 1

This presentation shows how UNESCO implemented the [VISUS methodology](#) to assess and enhance school safety in hazard-prone areas of Mozambique. University and ministry teams surveyed nearly 100 schools using both paper forms and mobile apps. The data were then used to inform infrastructure prioritisation.

[From Policy to Practice: Localising National Tools for Resilient Schools in Lao PDR and the use of global tools in local contexts](#) (Save the Children and INEE)

CSSF Pillar 2

Experiences, best practices, and useful tools for leveraging national policies to build practical and locally-led solutions for school safety management in Lao PDR, completed by the use and contextualisation of global standards, such as the INEE Minimum Standards, into practice.

Aanya and Tuguldur's Stories: Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Education in the Indian Ocean and East Asia (IFRC and UNICEF)

CSSF Pillar 3

Through storytelling, discover how practical resources and programmes are helping students to stay safe in climate-related disasters, advocate for action and inspire behavioural change. Read about Tuguldur from Mongolia, whose leadership in air quality monitoring and pollution sensitisation helped shape conversations in classrooms, communities, and councils. And learn how a locally-led, child-participatory and game-based approach to risk education empowered Aanya and her school mates to improve evacuation plans and safety behaviours at school, at home and in the neighbourhood.

KEY RESOURCES

Key reports and tools that provide data, evidence, and tools to support implementation of the CSSF.

Global Status of School Safety: Results of the 2024 Comprehensive School Safety Policy Survey (GADRRRES)

All CSSF Pillars

The results of the 2024 Comprehensive School Safety Policy Survey provide detailed findings on school safety policy across sub-national, national, regional, and global levels. The website includes a technical report with all findings, as well as national/regional profiles and eight key findings from the research. Regional technical reports will be available shortly.

INEE Minimum Standards for Education (INEE)

All CSSF Pillars

The purpose of the INEE Minimum Standards is to improve the quality of educational preparedness, response, and recovery; to increase access to safe and relevant learning opportunities; and to ensure that the actors who provide these services are held accountable. The INEE Minimum Standards serve as a practical resource by equipping education practitioners with tools and guidance to implement actions outlined under the CSSF, such as educational continuity planning, accelerated education programs, remote learning, meaningful community participation, psychosocial support/social and emotional learning, and curriculum adaptation.

Public Awareness and Public Education for Disaster Risk Reduction (IFRC and Save the Children)

CSSF Pillar 3

This webpage includes a collection of action-oriented key messages for households and schools and a template for their national adaptation and adoption.

[Paré pas Paré](#) (French Red Cross - Regional Intervention Platform in the Indian Ocean)

CSSF Pillar 3

This webpage gives an overview of a multi-regional risk reduction and resilience education programme, collaboratively designed between Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, educational and disaster management authorities, meteorological offices, civil protection and other relevant stakeholders. It includes a [link](#) to didactic materials (in French) for school teachers and learners, as well as for the general public, notably workbooks, serious games and guidelines.

[Acting Ahead to Protect Education Investments – Why the need for proactive approaches to crises is more urgent than ever](#) (Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies)

All CSSF Pillars

The Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies' 2025 Flagship report sets out how the right investments ahead of crises can save both lives and resources, while protecting the education and futures of millions of children and youth. Crises may be unavoidable, but their worst impacts are not. The report highlights the urgent need to advance funding, implementation and the mainstreaming of anticipatory approaches, overall and for education specifically, notably through the endorsement of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.

CHAMPION COUNTRIES

Comprehensive School Safety champion countries act as inspiration for other countries and partners to endorse and implement the Comprehensive School Safety Framework. As of July 2025, there are two champion countries:

- [Peru](#) - demonstrating how to make schools more resilient to a wide range of hazards.
- [Costa Rica](#) – focussing on comprehensive risk management and community empowerment.

FURTHER RESOURCES

All GADRRRES members' tools and resources shared during the side event can be found in [this folder](#).

Additional assets can be found on the [resource library on the GADRRRES website](#).

ABOUT GADRRRES

The [Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector](#) (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 in Asia, the Pacific, the Americas and the Caribbean and West and Central Africa.