



Animation: [What does child-responsive disaster risk reduction look like at UNICEF?](#)  
See 7 country examples.

unicef   
for every child



# Every child prepared, engaged, safe and resilient

Stories of UNICEF & child-responsive disaster risk reduction  
in seven countries around the world

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# Introduction

UNICEF works on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in 150 countries. Child-responsive DRR prioritizes children and young people in the disaster management cycle, ensuring their individual and collective needs are part of policies, plans and systems. UNICEF and its partners also engage children and young people in DRR activities to strengthen and build on their innovative ideas, skills and capacities to drive solutions.



Every US dollar spent on prevention and disaster risk reduction can save up to \$15 in post-disaster recovery. Child-responsive disaster risk reduction is thus an investment in the future. It brings the world closer to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction targets to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses by 2030, leaving no one behind. **The whole of society benefits when every child is prepared, engaged, safe and resilient.**



The following stories showcase UNICEF's work in seven regions. They expand on the UNICEF examples presented in the 2023 animation: [What does child-responsive disaster risk reduction look like at UNICEF? See 7 country examples.](#)

UNICEF, the government and other partners support the Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF), which aims to protect children from multiple hazards like floods, fires, earthquakes and landslides through risk reduction and resilience building in the education sector. CSS is implemented through minimum measures for every school to ensure children are safe from hazards. The measures are determined through discussions with local government, school management, students and parents. They are designed to ensure school buildings are structurally safe and learning environments provide students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to stay safe during disasters.

As part of CSS, students actively develop child-responsive DRR action plans with school administrators and teachers. Plans often include practicing and leading emergency drills with evacuation routes and identifying places at school to keep safe during crises. Since 2013, UNICEF and its partners have reached 158,000 children and 10,000 teachers and key officials in capacity-building efforts on preparedness and risk reduction.

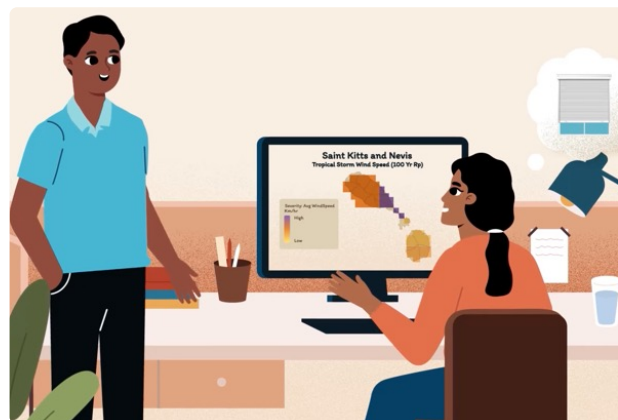


This includes children and young people working with adults to create risk maps of surrounding areas. More than 12,000 students in child clubs also learned first aid and light search and rescue and ran emergency drills to practice these skills. They can now act as agents of change in their communities with confidence and knowledge of disaster risk reduction.



With support from UNICEF and partners, the government of the twin island state of Saint Kitts and Nevis is improving the understanding and management of risks that children, young people, families and their communities face from climate change and disasters through the development of the **Children's Climate Risk Index – Disaster Risk Model (CCRI-DRM)**. The CCRI-DRM initiative includes the development of a subnational risk assessment model, with data visualized on an interactive geospatial platform that can be used for analysis. The model uses the global [UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Index \(CCRI\)](#) as its primary reference.

The CCRI-DRM seeks to consolidate hazard exposure and vulnerability data sets from various sources to provide insight into the communities and infrastructure with a higher risk of experiencing multiple hazards, shocks and stresses, such as hurricanes, heavy rainfall, flooding and coastal erosion. The model's subnational climate and disaster risk data will aid decision-making processes for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, emergency preparedness and response, and other programme sector-related policies and plans, leading to strengthened community resilience and reduced vulnerability. For example, government and school officials can use the data for school safety decision-making, such as which schools will be reinforced to reduce disaster risk and strengthen climate resilience.



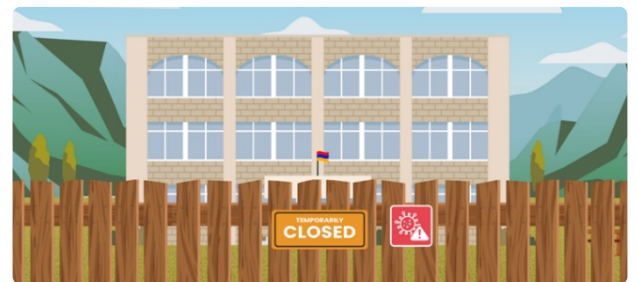
CCRI-DRM subnational risk assessment models are at various stages of development and implementation within the Eastern Caribbean Area (Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Dominica), Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Somalia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos and the Pacific Region.



When the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in 2020, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) to explore how the government could support children and young people through shock responsive social protection mechanisms. Building on an analysis of Armenia's COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan, UNICEF and the MoLSA promoted a series of cash assistance programmes linked with the national social protection system.

For instance, MoLSA recognized that children's and young people's access to education was threatened if their households could not afford electricity. This raised the risk of students dropping out of school. Thus, considering their education and other needs, the cash assistance programme included a Family Benefit emergency top-up (70% as a top-up; 30% as an electricity subsidy), an emergency child grant and an emergency disability grant.

Because UNICEF and MoLSA had been gathering evidence on opportunities for emergency response through national systems since 2017, they were aware of possible entry points for social protection within Armenia's Family Benefit system. They were able to develop the systems and processes for the cash assistance programme in 1.5 months.



UNICEF has a long history in Nigeria improving child health through preventing and managing disease outbreaks. In 2022, UNICEF supported vaccinating 26.7 million children aged 9-59 months in 24 states in response to a measles outbreak (measles is a highly contagious but vaccine-preventable disease). To reduce the risk of future disease outbreaks, the vaccination campaign included a wider emergency health response. This is where UNICEF assisted in training healthcare workers on infection prevention and control, engaged the community, and provided medicines and logistics to enable case management.

UNICEF also works to ensure vaccines can be available to all, especially in rural areas where the lack of electricity threatens the safe storage of vaccines. UNICEF has donated 234 units of solar-powered freezers and 115 refrigerators to healthcare clinics. The fridges can safely hold up to a month's stock of routine immunization vaccines. In Nigeria, UNICEF's efforts to increase the



number of vaccinated children include building and sustaining vaccine confidence and acceptance by engaging with community members and healthcare providers as well as strengthening rural immunization through outreach services, and primary healthcare services.



In Indonesia, increased flooding can lead to unsafe sanitation facilities and practices. Many families, like Fika's in Central Java province, cannot use their toilets due to flooding. Not only can heavy rains and flooding damage sanitation facilities, but they can also disrupt access to safe sanitation – especially for children, women and persons with disabilities.



With UNICEF and government assistance, Fika's family was able to build a new indoor raised toilet, which is protected against flooding. Building raised toilets and watertight septic tanks in areas prone to flooding is an example of the robust sanitation infrastructure needed in Indonesia as hazards like flooding increase in frequency and severity.

As climate-induced hazards accelerate, their adverse impact on Indonesia's sanitation systems is growing, especially for the 40 million people living in low-lying coastal areas. On climate-resilient sanitation provides recommendations for local and national governments to improve safe sanitation in Indonesia.



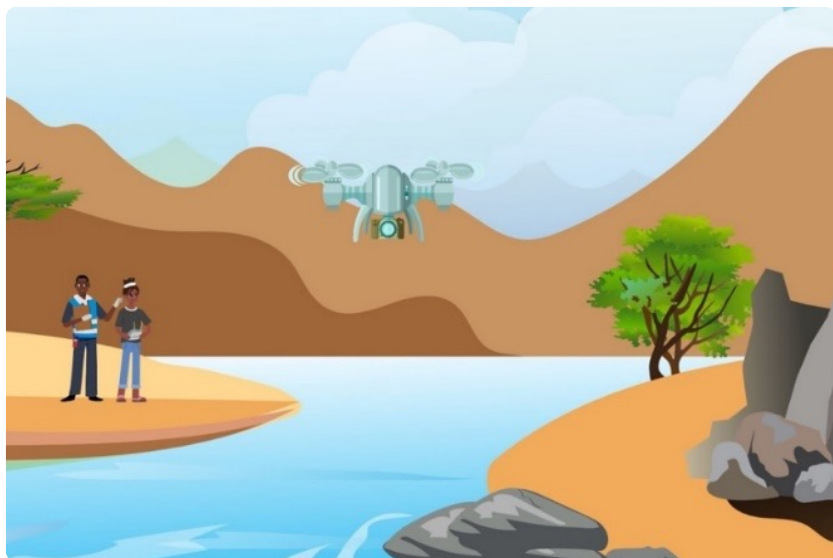
In 2022, UNICEF Iran collaborated with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) to pilot a nationwide child-centred community resilience programme. As part of the pilot, UNICEF trained 100 master trainers from IRCS who then taught IRCS *pishgaman* (pioneer) local neighborhood teams, including in remote and vulnerable villages. Each team consisted of 14 adolescent boy and girl volunteers who receive training on disaster risk management, physical and psychological first aid and risk communication. The aim is for the knowledge to be passed on by the trainers to reach the adolescents' peers and communities.

The community resilience programme is in its early stages. With support from UNICEF and the IRCS master trainers through 2024, the aim is to expand the training to 3,000 adolescents across Iran. They will receive training and engage in community-based efforts for risk mitigation and early response in case of emergency.





The Malawi government has been preparing for and responding to hazards in collaboration with youth trained through UNICEF's [African Drone and Data Academy \(ADDA\)](#). ADDA provides youth from Malawi and the African region with 21st-century skills and STEM competencies for disaster risk reduction. This includes knowledge and skills to link drone data to early warning systems (EWS) that enable individuals, communities, governments, businesses and others to take timely action to reduce disaster risks in advance of hazardous events.



Since its establishment in 2020, the academy has trained more than 1,000 drone pilots who can be called on for DRR and emergency response, strengthening the drone and data ecosystem for more effective humanitarian and development response. For example:

- [Cyclone Ana, 2022](#): A drone team mapped 26 hectares of land in 3 hours to create cost-effective, high-quality maps that the government could use to locate and build emergency shelters.
- [Rukuru River, 2023](#): Drone pilots helped gather images to provide a near true-to-life representation of the terrain features to create a flood risk model map for guiding government flood preparedness and disaster response.
- [Tropical Cyclone Freddy, 2023](#): UNICEF activated eight ADDA instructors and graduates to assist with aerial imagery acquisition and mapping. Search and Rescue teams used the data to verify ground images and videos of flood damage. The ADDA team added valuable data to damage and access assessment maps by showing the accessibility of affected areas and the extent of damage to various structures across 10 districts.

UNICEF's ADDA has found that drone imagery reveals far more detail than available satellite-based data, which can create a more detailed data baseline for effective disaster response and recovery.