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STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH RISK-INFORMED DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

UNICEF TECHNICAL NOTE

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH RISK-INFORMED DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

February 2021

CONTENTS

On 16 May, a man and two women look on as two girls run through a street lined with the rubble of destroyed houses in Bhimeshwar Municipality, Dolakha District, the epicentre of the 12 May earthquake.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover photograph: © UNICEF/UN069082/Noorani
A Rohingya girl child smiles standing outside her family's shelter in the Balukhali makeshift settlement for Rohingya refugees in Ukhiya, a sub-district of Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh, Wednesday 14 June 2017.

Contents page photograph: © UNICEF/UNI185871/Karki
On 31 May, Laxmi Giri's youngest sister, ten-year-old Janaki Giri smiles in her village in in Balephi, Sindhupalchowk, one of the hardest-hit district by the earthquake.

Eight-year-old Rohingya refugee Yasmin Akther reads a textbook in her family's shelter in Kutupalong Makeshift Settlement for Rohingya refugees in Ukhiya, a sub-district of Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh, Tuesday 13 June 2017.

ACRONYMS

DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response
GRIP	Guidance on Risk Informed Programming
LAC-INFORM	Index for Risk Management for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

(Wearing yellow shirt) Muhammad Modu, 15, an internally displaced person from Malori, digs through a rubbish dump in a gated compound just off the main road that runs through the Mairi Garage Market in Maiduguri, Nigeria for saleable items on March 24, 2016.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local governance programming can foster local development that increases the resilience of children and communities to shocks and disasters. This note provides guidance to support UNICEF country offices to strengthen programming with local governments around Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation and resilience to increase their responsiveness to the unique needs of children. The note draws on country experience to outline key concepts in this area and describes programme activities and measures to strengthen local governance that is risk informed.

Given their variety of planning, budgeting and service-delivery functions, local- and higher-level subnational governments have a prominent role to play in reducing child vulnerability prior to disasters. Investments in strengthening local governance capacities can limit disaster-related disruptions to social services and reduce losses to essential social and economic assets in communities. As front-line responders to humanitarian disasters and emergencies, local governments contribute directly to reductions in child mortality and to the bolstering of child protection during rescue and recovery operations.

UNICEF work on local governance is a powerful basis for ensuring that the vulnerability of children and adolescents, and their capacity to contribute to risk reduction, are considered before, during and after disasters and other crises. Increasing our focus on disaster risk prevention and preparedness will involve strengthening engagement with local governments and at-risk communities on these issues. The COVID-19 pandemic has tremendously increased the importance of preparedness and the establishment of resilient communities and adaptable systems at both national and subnational level.

This note provides key information, practical examples and case studies to support UNICEF country offices to integrate child-sensitive DRR and resilience into local governance programming through initiatives to address four key objectives:

- **Risk awareness,** by increasing information and understanding of disaster and climate-related risks and building local government and community capacity for child-sensitive risk assessments.

- **Risk reduction and prevention,** by incorporating child-sensitive disaster and climate-related risk reduction measures into local service-delivery systems and local development policies, plans and projects.

- **Preparedness,** by building local capacity to mitigate the impacts of shocks and stresses through developing and expanding local forecasting tools, early warning systems and contingency plans.

- **Recovery and building back better,** by integrating DRR measures into post-disaster needs assessments and recovery plans through strengthening inclusive participation and decision-making among excluded and marginalized populations.

Rohingya refugee Hamidah walks through a a muddy street with her children in Kutupalong Makeshift Settlement for Rohingya refugees in Ukhiya, a sub-district of Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh, Tuesday 13 June 2017.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE NOTE

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–30[1] and UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021,[2] local governance programming can support UNICEF country office efforts to foster local development that increases the resilience of children and communities. This becomes increasingly important in the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic. This note provides guidance to support UNICEF country offices to strengthen programming with local governments around DRR, climate change adaptation and resilience to increase their responsiveness to the unique needs of children, drawing on country experience to outline key concepts in this area and describe programme activities and measures to strengthen local governance that is risk informed.

The note builds on UNICEF country office experiences and the latest organization-wide guidance, including the UNICEF Local Governance Programme Guidance,[3] UNICEF Guidance on Risk-informed Programming[4] and Local Governance for COVID-19 Response Guidelines for Country Offices and National Committees.[5] Recommendations are drawn from a field research project on DRR in three programme countries,[6] a UNICEF consultation meeting on local governance DRR held in Bangkok (2017), a UNICEF webinar on local governance and DRR (2018) and a review of external literature on the contributions

UNICEF GUIDANCE ON RISK-INFORMED PROGRAMMING

> The UNICEF Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming (GRIP) is intended for use by UNICEF planning, programme and emergency staff in support of partners. GRIP provides an overview of the key steps in risk-informed programming, including risk analysis, design and adaptation of programmes, monitoring and sector-specific guidance. GRIP is designed to be used in support of regular programmes as well as humanitarian action, and at both national and subnational levels.

of decentralization and local governance engagement to localizing DRR.

The remainder of the note proceeds as follows: Section 2 introduces the specific and important role of local governments in DRR. Section 3 discusses four core DRR objectives in support of subnational government programmes and outlines activities to support their achievement. Section 4 sets out key suggestions on how to strengthen the results-based management of subnational government programmes on DRR, covering each stage of the country programme cycle. Each section contains boxes featuring helpful programming tips, key questions to ask during programme planning and/or additional resources to support further learning by programme planning and operational support staff.

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[1] Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, UNISDR Geneva 2015. Available at: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

[2] UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021. Available at: <www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_Strategic_Plan_2018-2021.pdf>.

[3] United Nations Children's Fund, A Local Governance Approach to Programming, UNICEF, New York, 2019. Available at: <www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/UNICEF-Guidance-on-Local-Governance-Approach-to-Programming-2019.pdf>.

[4] United Nations Children's Fund, *Guidance on Risk-informed Programming,* UNICEF, New York, 2018.

[5] Local Governance for COVID-19 Response Guidelines for Country Offices and National Committees.

[6] Kagawa, Fumiyo, 'UNICEF Child-sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) within a Decentralization and Local Governance (DeLoG) Context, Phase One Research Paper', UNICEF, New York, 2016.

1.2 DISASTER AND CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS TO CHILDREN AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Children, adolescents and women, particularly the poorest and most marginalized, are disproportionately affected by disasters.[7] Currently, a quarter of the world's children live in a country affected by conflict or disaster.[8] National-level figures on natural hazard exposure, however, mask major differences in how children and adolescents experience disaster risk at the local level. On the ground, both the type of disaster experienced and its intensity will affect children and adolescents' wellbeing in multiple ways.[9] Vulnerable children and adolescents, and the communities in which they reside, have context-specific and diverse needs before, during and after a disaster.

The most vulnerable children, adolescents and women also face the greatest risks from global climate change.[10] Even under conservative scenarios, where global mean temperature increases are stabilized at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, substantial changes in regional climates threaten adverse impacts on poor and vulnerable communities.[11] More frequent and intense extreme weather events (e.g., droughts, floods, cyclones), greater water scarcity and food insecurity, and expansion of the seasonality and geographic range of vector-borne and infectious diseases will erode the coping capacities of families, communities and social-service providers in both the public and private sectors.[12] Thus, contributions from stakeholders and decision makers at all levels of government and society are needed to ensure resilient development for children at the local level. In some cases, in addition to the negative disaster impact, approaches around mitigation and adaptation may also have specific impacts on livelihoods or poverty. It is critical to understand the effect of these approaches and how to address it. Alongside local governments, local communities play a

key role in understanding and identifying what works in the specific context.

In the COVID-19 pandemic, although children have been spared from many of the direct health effects the crisis is having a profound negative effect on their lives. Children of all ages are being affected, in particular by the socio-economic impacts, the disruption of local services, reduced access to vital family and care services and social protection, school closures, social distancing and increase in domestic violence. All heavily affect their development outcomes, safety and wellbeing.

Promising emerging evidence now indicates that investments in strengthening local governance capacities can limit disaster-related disruptions to social services and reduce losses to essential social and economic assets in communities. Rural districts where UNICEF India had supported the Bihar State Government to implement community-based DRR programming experienced zero fatalities compared to other affected districts when major flooding hit Bihar in 2017.[13] When targeted initiatives increase the capacity of communities to lead and manage DRR planning and action in partnership with local governments, poor and vulnerable children and adolescents often have lower rates of mortality, morbidity and other adverse impacts following natural shocks and stresses.

Fostering resilient local development that increases the ability of communities to plan for, recover from and adapt to adverse shocks and stresses over time responds to the dual threats of children's vulnerability to disasters and the unpredictability of future climatic extremes. Given their variety of planning, budgeting and service-delivery functions, local and higher-level subnational governments also have a prominent role to play in reducing child vulnerability prior to disasters. As front-line responders to humanitarian disasters and emergencies, local governments contribute directly to reductions in child mortality and to the bolstering of child protection during rescue and recovery operations.

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[7]   United Nations Children's Fund Division of Data, Research and Policy, 'UNICEF Strategic Framework on Environmental Sustainability for Children 2016–2017', UNICEF, New York, 2015.

[8]   United Nations Children's Fund, *UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2018: Overview,* UNICEF, New York, January 2018.

[9]   Seballos, Fran, et al., 'Children and Disasters: Understanding Impact and Enabling Agency', Research Report, Children in a Changing Climate, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, 2011.

[10] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Analytical Study on the Relationship between Climate Change and the Full and Effective Enjoyment of the Rights of the Child, A/HRC/35/13, 2017.

[11] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Global Warming of 1.5 °C,* Special Report, IPCC, 2018. Available at: <www.ipcc.ch/sr15>, accessed 18 February 2020.

[12] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ARC5 Climate Change 2014: *Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability,* Working Group II Report, IPCC, 2014. Available at: <www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2>, accessed 18 February 2020.

[13] IPE Global Limited, *Evaluation of UNICEF's Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction and School Safety Programme, Bihar, India (2011–2016), Final Evaluation Report,* United Nations Children's Fund, New Delhi, September 2017.

1.3 INTEGRATING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Promoting local development that reduces disaster risks to children, adapts social services to the impacts of climate change, and strengthens the resilience of communities to shocks and stresses is a priority of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda and the accompanying Sendai Framework[14] further represent an increasing shift in emphasis away from emergency response towards disaster prevention and preparedness. In recognition of the critical role of local-level stakeholders in DRR, the Grand Bargain agreed at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2015 proposed a series of localization commitments with the aim of channelling more financial and technical resources into building local-level capacity, including in regard to disaster prevention and preparedness.[15]

DRR, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE 2030 AGENDA

The importance of local governments in DRR is explicitly recognized in the 2030 Agenda. SDG 13, for instance, includes the indicator 'proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies'.

For UNICEF, an increasing focus on disaster risk prevention and preparedness will involve strengthening engagement with local governments and at-risk communities so that vulnerable children and adolescents, and their capacity to contribute to risk reduction, are considered before, during and after disasters and other crises.

UNICEF EXPERIENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

UNICEF work on local governance supports local governments and other local actors to respond to the needs and priorities of children and improve local service delivery by strengthening local disaggregated data, improving local planning and budgeting processes, developing participatory platforms and empowering communities, and supporting the implementation, coordination and oversight of service delivery by a range of actors, to generate and sustain results for the poorest and most marginalized children and adolescents. UNICEF country offices utilize an extended field presence (realized, for instance, through zonal offices) to implement decentralization and local governance programming that accelerates results for children. UNICEF programme specialists working on areas of social policy such as child development data, local policy and development planning, local public financial management, and transparency and participation work together with expert colleagues in different sectors such as health or child protection to achieve at-scale results that benefit the poorest and most disadvantaged children.[16]

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[14] Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, UNISDR 2015.
https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

[15] For more about the Grand Bargain commitments, including annual progress reports and other resources, see: Agenda for Humanity, 'Initiative: Grand Bargain', United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2016. Available at: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain>, accessed 18 February 2020.

[16] United Nations Children's Fund, *A Local Governance Approach to Programming,* UNICEF, New York, 2019.

2-year-old Lisa now live in a temporary house after liquefaction destroyed their home last year. Lisa was trapped in a hole in the ground during the liquefaction. "She couldn't say any words for weeks after the disaster. But now, she talks all the time with me. She has recovered from the trauma of the liquefaction. Thank you for the child friendly space," said Lisa's mother.

2. LOCAL GOVERNANCE, DECENTRALIZATION AND CHILD-CENTRED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The local governments being the first responders and the ones responsible for community development are playing a key role in achieving society's resilience to disasters. Other local actors and communities also play a critical role in terms of accountability and understanding local circumstances and needs. The approach to DRR that ensures sustainable results should include specific actions implemented at both national and subnational/local levels.

2.1 WHAT ROLE CAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PLAY IN REDUCING DISASTER RISK?

The role of local governments in dealing with DRR has been recognized as a key factor to build resilient communities and nations. Local authorities, non-government local actors and communities should be empowered to manage and reduce disaster risk by having access to the necessary information, resources and authority to implement actions. Local governments are playing a key role in planning and coordination at local level – both horizontally and vertically. They are responsible for the development of policies, strategies and budgets that support programmes and interventions for risk reduction and resilience building. Local governments

are required to consider and institutionalize DRR in their day-to-day operations, including development planning and the provision of public facilities and services.

Most district and local governments (e.g., at the level of the village or municipality) are responsible for the provision of clean and affordable water, improved sanitation, electricity, all-weather access roads, street lighting and emergency services. In countries where decentralization reforms have taken place, local governments may also have policy-making, planning and budgetary authority over primary and secondary education, primary health care and social protection. Municipalities in urban areas are further responsible for local development-related decisions – urban planning, land-use management and building-code design and enforcement – that can protect children from the worst impacts of shocks and stresses. Where such local planning and development instruments fail to consider risk, the threats to child rights and well-being for a particular neighbourhood or local area increase.

Although some local governments are wholly responsible for essential DRR functions, such as the development of strategic DRR plans or the assignment of a single point of coordination for risk assessment and analysis, they most often share power over and responsibility for DRR with an array of central- and local-level stakeholders.

2.2 SETTING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AT NATIONAL LEVEL

National policy and regulations shape the incentives for district governments and other local authorities to proactively reduce or prevent disaster risks and increase community- and facility-level preparedness for specific shocks and stresses. Within the enabling environment for local DRR, the coordination structures that guide the implementation and enforcement of policies and regulations are key determinants of local government progress against local DRR targets. The COVID-19 emergency clearly highlighted the pivotal role of local governments in response to the crisis through the focus needed at the household and community level.

Local governments, the private sector and civil society are more likely to work with communities to reduce child and adolescent vulnerabilities to disaster and climate-related risks when central government authorities:

- Clearly define local governments' functional responsibilities and these are supported by strong internal accountability systems across the different levels of government.

- Proactively share risk information in formats that are relevant to local government functions.

- Transfer adequate funds to local governments to meet DRR costs that cannot be covered by local governments' own resources (including resources transferred from higher level subnational governments in federal systems).

- Combine positive and negative incentives (i.e., rewards and penalties) for disaster risk prevention and preparedness with targeted capacity-building resources that prioritize the development of local officials in the most hazard-prone local government areas.

On 4 June 2020, workers wearing protective suits prepare to disinfect the Beurawe Health Centre in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, as part of a government initiative to sanitize health facilities to reduce hospital-acquired COVID-19 infections.

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In order to understand and respond to the types of DRR challenges that local governments face, UNICEF country offices can consider risk-informed geographic priorities in the country programme, based on spatial risk assessments. UNICEF cannot work in all localities where vulnerable children face disaster risks and where repeated exposure to shocks and stresses threatens to reverse hard-won progress in addressing child poverty and deprivations. Ensuring that geographic priorities are selected on the basis of the most up-to-date information on hazard exposure, vulnerability and capacity is a key for UNICEF country offices aiming to localize DRR, climate change adaptation and resilience engagement as part of the broader shift towards risk-informed programming. The Guidance on Risk Informed Programming provides useful tools and information on risk-informed programming. The Local Governance for COVOD-19 Response Guidelines for Country Offices and National Committees[17] outlines priority actions when engaging specifically in support of local governments' responses to COVID-19.

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[17] Local Governance for COVOD-19 Response Guidelines for Country Offices and National Committees, UNICEF HQ, 2020
https://unicef.sharepoint.com/teams/PD-SPCoP/Decentralisation%20and%20Local%20Governance/Forms/AllItems.
aspx?id=%2Fteams%2FPD%2DSPCoP%2FDecentralisation%20and%20Local%20Governance%2FGuidance%20Documents%2FLocal%20
Governance%20%5FCOVID%2D19%20Guidance%20Note%2Epdf&parent=%2Fteams%2FPD%2DSPCoP%2FDecentralisation%20and%20
Local%20Governance%2FGuidance%20Documents

Dipa and her husband Mustaquinur Rashid have brought their children Momin to the Surjer Hasi Clinic supported by UNICEF for routine vaccination. Nabiha is 5.5 years old and her sister Muntaha is 21 days old. Muntaha is receiving her first dose of Vaccine. Dipa is sitting in the waiting room while her elder daughter Nabiha is playing with her father. This photo was taken on 7 November 2020 at Surjer Hasi Clinic, Green road, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh.

© UNICEF/UN0401053/Himu

Rashid and Mohammad (4 years)
"We are scared of the rain because of landslides. There was one just near here. At night we move to our neighbour's shelter to sleep because there is less chance of a landslide happening there." - Rashid and Mohammad, four-year-old Rohingya refugees enduring the monsoon season in Bangladesh.

3. PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE, DECENTRALIZATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

3.1 OBJECTIVES

Risk-informed decentralization and local governance programming can support four DRR objectives at the country level. The four programme objectives are: risk awareness, risk reduction and prevention, preparedness, and recovery and 'building back better' (see Table 1).

The remainder of this section unpacks each objective individually to provide:

- Background information on the application of risk-informed decentralization and local governance programming to meet the objective.

- Key questions to guide programme planning.

- An indicative list of programme activities to support the achievement of the objective.

- Examples from UNICEF country office programming to illustrate what can be done.

- A list of sample indicators that country offices have used for decentralization, local governance and DRR programming.[18]

- A list of additional resources to use when planning and implementing programmes around the objective.

TABLE 1. CORE PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE	DESCRIPTION
Risk awareness	Risk information and understanding of disaster and climate-related risks are improved by building local government and community capacity for child-sensitive risk assessments.
Risk reduction and prevention	Risks among vulnerable girls, boys, adolescents and women are reduced (or avoided) by incorporating child-sensitive disaster and climate-related risk reduction measures into local service-delivery systems and local development policies, plans and projects.
Preparedness	Local capacity to mitigate the impacts of shocks and stresses is improved by developing and expanding local forecasting tools, early warning systems and contingency plans.
Recovery and building back better	Integration of DRR measures into post-disaster needs assessments and recovery plans is achieved by strengthening inclusive participation and decision-making among excluded and marginalized populations.

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[18] These example indicators are drawn from the UNICEF Result Assessment Module for programme monitoring.

3.2 RISK AWARENESS

OBJECTIVE | **Risk information and understanding of disaster and climate-related risks are improved by building local government and community capacity for child-sensitive risk assessments.**

Accurate risk information and good risk awareness underpin all other DRR objectives. The UNICEF Guidance on Risk-informed Programming encourages country offices to strengthen the capacity of at-risk communities to carry out child-sensitive, multi-hazard risk assessments. The role of communities in sharing experiences, lessons learned, good practices of disaster risk mitigation and negative effects of disaster outbreaks are of key importance for building the knowledge of local governments, and strengthening risk information and awareness. In the case of the COVID-19 crisis, as the threat of COVID-19 evolved people's knowledge and beliefs changed – so assessments will need to be ongoing to ensure that interventions remain relevant to people at-risk.

Technical and managerial capacity to carry out standardized, child-sensitive, multi-hazard risk assessments may be limited among local governments and communities in many hazard-prone localities, particularly those in remote areas that struggle to attract skilled personnel.

Defining child vulnerability in national standards for local government risk assessments can help to begin the process of creating shared knowledge around child vulnerability across different classes of local governments. This knowledge can then be used to tailor future pre-disaster risk assessment, prevention and mitigation activities to local realities. Elected officials (e.g., mayors, local councillors) and technical staff often have reliable knowledge of the history of lower-intensity, higher-frequency shocks and stresses – such as losses to household and community assets, livelihoods and related effects on child vulnerability and exposure – which may be missing from national information systems.

Points to consider:

- Efforts to reduce disaster risk begin with improving information on the dangers and risks of natural hazards for children and on the local effects of global climate change. Risk awareness helps to build shared knowledge and local urgency around actions to limit hazard exposure, increase disaster preparedness and build the resilience of a locality.

- Risk awareness requires improving the quality of multi-hazard risk information across all of its dimensions (shocks and stresses, exposure, vulnerability, capacity) for girls, boys, adolescents and women.

- The poorest and most vulnerable children residing in different territorial settings face risks that are unique to their settlement area. The lack of geographically disaggregated data on local disasters held in global disaster risk databases thus remains a problem.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR PROGRAMME PLANNING

- What risk assessment activities are carried out by which departments and agencies in local government?

- Are best practices in DRR (e.g., rainwater harvesting, school building design) communicated effectively both downwards to the village or community level (in urban areas) and upwards from communities to levels of local government?

- What challenges do local government departments and agencies face in implementing local risk assessments?

- What technical and logistical support for local risk assessments do local governments receive from the national and subnational levels of government?

UNICEF contributions to improving risk information and awareness may include:

- Supporting local governments to prepare or update local-level disaster risk maps and vulnerability profiles covering local jurisdictions with relevant information disaggregated by age, gender and location (rural/urban).

- Developing proofs of concept and pilots for connecting routine administrative systems to risk-information systems, which include information on hazards, vulnerability, exposure and capacity.

- Supporting local governments to strengthen existing public broadcasting and reporting mechanisms to ensure that updated risk information is disseminated to vulnerable children, youth and families (e.g., risk information is translated into local languages), ensuring at the same time the participation of targeted vulnerable groups in the process.

A boy carries supplies through waist-high floodwater in Pasig City in Manila, the capital.

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- Supporting local government efforts to make risk information freely available to and accessible by the public, including by increasing opportunities for children's and community-based organizations to disseminate risk information in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods.

- Developing assessments to identify whether local government responsibilities for monitoring and updating risk information are adequately defined and implemented.

- Supporting the development of national and region-specific guidelines for child-sensitive local risk assessments.

- Helping central disaster management and statistical agencies to share census and other risk information with local governments in formats that local decision makers are able to use.

- Strengthening awareness of communities and community groups on risk communication and information, and improving community access to information and communication channels.

UNICEF ETHIOPIA

District-level disaster risk profiles

Working with the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector of the Ministry of Agriculture, UNICEF Ethiopia supported the Ethiopian Government to develop district-level disaster risk profiles for 337 of the country's 825 woredas (districts). Each risk profile covers district-level hazards, vulnerability and capacity to improve DRR and climate change adaptation planning, contingency planning and early warning systems. Currently, 116 indicators across 12 categories are used to capture qualitative and quantitative risk information for a district from household survey questionnaires, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and other, secondary sources. The data are then analysed and formatted to create a woreda risk profile, the accuracy and transparency of which is then validated by local stakeholders.

UNICEF INDONESIA

Common data on child vulnerability and capacity

UNICEF Indonesia, with various civil-society partners, supported the national government to harmonize DRR policy and practice in urban areas with updated scenarios of the likely future impacts of climate change on the country. A major obstacle to improving risk information had been the use of different definitions and data relating to child vulnerability and community capacity by ministries and subnational government authorities. UNICEF Indonesia convened inter-ministerial focus group discussions between the national disaster management agency (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana) and relevant ministries. These focus group discussions led to greater awareness of the particular risks faced by children and a shared commitment to understanding disaster risk through the lens of child vulnerability and to developing a common methodology for child-centred risk assessments of climate-related hazards, based on a pilot project in the city of Surabaya. UNICEF advocacy resulted in various line ministries agreeing to harmonize the data they use to understand the relationships between climate-related hazards, child and adolescent vulnerability and the capacity of urban communities.

SAMPLE INDICATORS

- Number of woredas for which a biannual nutrition survey report is available.

- Number of unions with disaster risk profiles updated with quantitative and qualitative data on child vulnerability based on the analysis of data from multiple sources (e.g., departmental data, community data and Level 3 Monitoring Approach data).

- Number of unions where community information boards are regularly updated.

- Number of high-risk states that have conducted community-based vulnerability and capacity assessment and produced a report to inform preparedness planning.

- Availability of a costed and evaluated vulnerability assessment methodology for adoption by local governments.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 'Contributing to more effective risk management of crises and disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean', LAC-INFORM 2018 Update, Index for Risk Management for Latin America and the Caribbean, European Commission, Brussels, 2018. Available at: <www.inform-index.org/Portals/0/InfoRM/2018/Subnational/LAC_INFORM_2018_v005_MainResults_Eng.pdf?ver=2018-03-09-082636-400>, accessed 20 January 2019.

United Nations Children's Fund, Child-centred Risk Assessment: Regional Synthesis of UNICEF Assessments in Asia, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, Kathmandu, January 2014. Available at: <www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/36688>, accessed 18 February 2020.

United Nations Children's Fund, Guidance on Risk-informed Programming, UNICEF, New York, 2018. Available at: <www.unicefinemergencies.com/downloads/eresource/docs/risk-informed%20programming/GRIP%20COMPLETE_ALL%20MODULES.pdf>, accessed 18 February 2020.

3.3 RISK REDUCTION AND PREVENTION

OBJECTIVE

Risks among vulnerable girls, boys, adolescents and women are reduced (or avoided) by incorporating child-sensitive disaster and climate-related risk reduction measures into local service-delivery systems and local development policies, plans and projects.

A key objective of child-centred DRR is ensuring that the latest risk information informs local service delivery across health; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); education; nutrition; social protection and child protection. Protecting children and adolescents from communicable diseases and vector-borne illnesses – which represent a principal risk of disaster at the local level – also requires the strengthening of integrated planning and service delivery by local governments. Risk-informed planning and service delivery must bring together WASH, primary health care and nutrition focal points in local government to build policies and procedures that account for gender- and disability-specific needs, and risk factors associated with different types and intensities of disaster. Similarly, it is well known that poverty and vulnerability to shocks are interlinked. Shock-responsive social protection systems can play a significant role in enhancing the capacity of families, parents and carers to cope with sudden, recurrent or protracted crises.

At the local level, the UNICEF comparative advantage has historically focused on prioritizing and promoting different approaches (e.g., mainstreaming child and youth considerations in local planning and budgeting) in local service delivery, leaving issues of local site planning and hard infrastructure systems to other partners.[19] UNICEF country offices are strongly encouraged to extend the UNICEF comparative advantage in different approaches to territorial development, such as zoning ordinances, building codes and other land control mechanisms. Building codes and zoning ordinances are often the least-cost solution to concentrated hazard exposure and vulnerability, since they prevent businesses
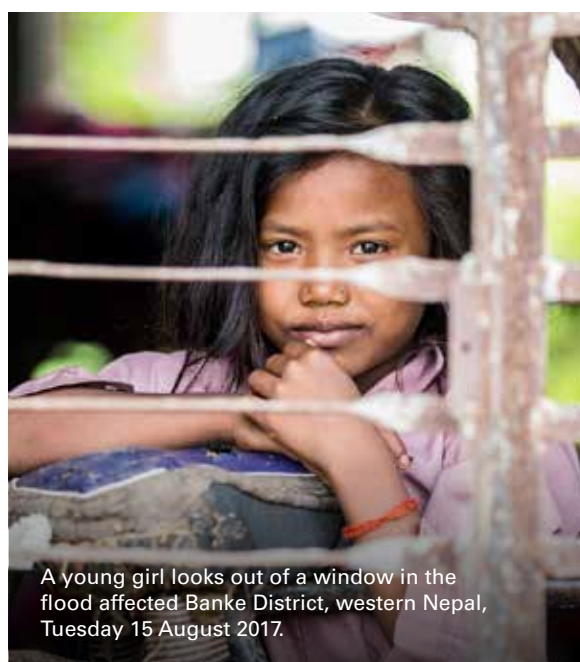
A young girl looks out of a window in the flood affected Banke District, western Nepal, Tuesday 15 August 2017.

© UNICEF/UN076320/Jung Thapa

and households from settling in at-risk areas or otherwise ensure that construction in such areas is resilient to the variety of shocks that could affect children and adolescents.

While considerable emphasis has been placed on improving the capacity of disaster management authorities, increased community resilience at the local level stems from high quality social and administrative services, accessible public infrastructure and political representation that voices and debates local DRR preferences and ideas. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are essential to ensuring that sector programmes (e.g., policies, strategies and action plans) are relevant to local governments and become progressively owned by local stakeholders.

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[19] There are exceptions to this general point such as when UNICEF supports the construction of school buildings, primary-health-care facilities, and water and sanitation infrastructure.

Points to consider:

- Establishing policy and coordination mechanisms that support the regular and systematic incorporation of the latest risk information into sector strategies and plans, local service-delivery systems and local development policies, plans and projects is key for local risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience.

- Risk informing local or national social protection policy, programmes and administrative or operational systems. Among other things, this could include allocation of contingency budgets for crisis response and scale-up at the local government level, investing in capacity building of front-line staff and deployment of staff to scale-up social assistance in times of crisis, and establishing coordination mechanism with humanitarian cash working groups to ensure links between humanitarian and development programming.

- Adding climate-related risk indicators in addition to socio-economic indicators to determine eligibility and implement targeting approaches. Linking with early warning systems to provide support in minimizing negative impacts of a predictable shock/crisis.

- School-based DRR initiatives – combining support for revising building codes and building regulations, training teaching staff on local disaster risks and incorporating risk information and knowledge into school curricula – are often the most direct route to reducing disaster risk for children and adolescents.

- A dedicated local disaster risk department or single point of coordination, supported by planned budget allocations, can accelerate the process of mainstreaming child protection and risk reduction across all local government departments in at-risk communities and service-delivery areas.

- To be effective, child-sensitive disaster and climate-related risk reduction measures must also involve the private sector. For example, small- and medium-sized enterprises and other local industry clusters are responsible for most investment in new construction. Local governments are often responsible for implementing and enforcing building codes and zoning ordinances, which can be key levers of influence for promoting child-centred DRR across the construction industry.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR PROGRAMME PLANNING

- Is DRR incorporated into local development plans (e.g., for the village, district, municipality), with clear measures that focus on the unique needs of children and adolescents?

- What roles do local stakeholders in the public and private sectors have in implementing national policies and standards for disaster prevention?

- Is a budget line item or other resource mobilization mechanism in place to channel financial resources into risk prevention?

- Do vulnerable communities participate in risk-prevention activities? What local committees or other governance mechanisms exist to ensure community participation and what other roles do such committees and mechanisms play?

- Do local governments adopt existing prevention technologies and national standards? What barriers to their implementation exist at the local level?

- Do capacity-building organizations (e.g., professional associations, universities) exist in the public and private sectors that can support the scaling up of good risk-prevention practices at the local level?

Achieving tangible reductions in local disaster risk – or, alternatively, preventing the formation of new risks – requires the most cross-sectoral collaboration across the social sectors under the UNICEF mandate of all four of the core objectives set out here.

Programme activities may include:

- Capacity-building initiatives for local stakeholders with a particular emphasis on local governments to ensure that the latest risk information from child-centred risk assessments is incorporated into the array of local plans that guide local service delivery (e.g., local action plans for implementing sector programmes, local capital improvement plans, local spatial development plans).

- Supporting the creation of child and youth participation platforms to inform local government DRR policy and decision-making.

- Creating national standards and targets for reducing local disaster risk, including clear and measurable performance indicators.

- Budget advocacy for a dedicated fund for child-centred DRR investments by local governments.

- Reviewing national and local building codes to ensure that they are child-sensitive, and assessing building code enforcement capacity at all levels of government.

UNICEF BANGLADESH

Increasing village resilience through local governance programming

UNICEF Bangladesh worked with local governments and communities in three Chittagong Hill Tracts districts to develop village action plans covering 1,833 villages. Community information boards and flyers containing information about social services and providers were used to mobilize communities, on the basis of their entitlements and rights, to demand better services. While children were excluded from direct participation in the planning process, they were able to voice their concerns during community meetings where community members were invited to discuss local needs and priorities. A total of 35 out of 60 upazilas (sub-districts) leveraged funds from their own budgets to action bottom-up plans to address child vulnerability through better DRR planning and implementation.

UNICEF PERU

Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities to avoid disaster risks

Targeting 17 districts across four regions (Loreto, Cusco, Lima and Ucayali), UNICEF Peru worked in collaboration with partner Proyecto Amigó, a non-governmental organization, to improve local government budget allocations for DRR with a specific focus on children's rights. Programming was focused around three key interventions: (1) capacity building of civil servants responsible for DRR through workshops and technical assistance; (2) advocacy and technical assistance, targeting those responsible for local government budgeting (i.e., Office of Planning and Budgeting), on the various DRR financial mechanisms, with a special focus on children and adolescents; and (3) developing and validating a DRR financial strategy guide in line with Law No. 29664 *(Ley que crea el Sistema Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres)* which created the national system for disaster risk management. By increasing awareness and capacity among civil servants, the programming successfully influenced budget allocations for DRR at the local government level. The DRR financial strategy guide, which proposes that actions addressing children's rights should be funded by local governments, has been widely disseminated beyond the initial 17 target districts.

SAMPLE INDICATORS

- Number of municipalities where DRR strategies are included in social protection systems.

- Number of provinces with child-sensitive local action plans for DRR.

- Number of municipalities that incorporate adolescent-led risk assessment and risk reduction plans into their planning.

- Number of hazard-prone districts and municipalities with operational disaster risk management plans that incorporate gender and equity issues in line with Core Commitments for Children.

- Number of adolescent, youth and community groups engaged in community action and local planning processes in relation to DRR, climate change adaptation and resilience building.

- Number of women and girls participating in community groups engaged in community action and local planning processes in relation to DRR, climate change adaptation and resilience building.

- Number of representatives of child club networks, adolescents, youth or media personnel with the capacity to promote local planning processes, DRR, climate change adaptation and resilience building.

- Percentage of children attending seismically safe schools in line with national building codes.

- Number of municipalities that have incorporated risk analysis and DRR into local development plans.

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3.4 PREPAREDNESS

OBJECTIVE | **Local capacity to mitigate the impacts of shocks and stresses is improved by developing and expanding local forecasting tools, early warning systems and contingency plans.**

UNICEF often uses its knowledge of children and its social sector expertise to highlight cases for investment in preparedness, focusing on the social and economic benefits of early warning systems and on any regional and local gaps in contingency planning. Situation monitoring in disaster-prone localities courtesy of a UNICEF field presence generates both credibility and valuable information that can be used to improve existing forecasting tools.

Points to consider:

- Because local governments are closest to service-delivery units at the local level, they can:

  o Influence inclusion of key sectors such as social protection in planning for disasters and review sector contingency plans to ensure they are up-to-date, inclusive and viable

  o Develop standard operating procedures for responding to crisis. This could include coordination mechanisms for government sectors and non-government assistance (especially cash transfers) to affected populations, deployment of staff, etc.

- The relevance and effectiveness of plans and investments in forecasting, early warning systems and emergency communication systems can be enhanced through participatory processes that reflect the needs and interests of vulnerable children and youth.

- The fixed (capital) and variable (operational) costs and maintenance burden of early warning systems often exceed local government resources, meaning that central government authorities must share financial resources as well as information to ensure that early warning systems both operate continuously and cover the most vulnerable children and adolescents.

- Community centres and safe spaces can serve dual purposes as places to increase public awareness, to stockpile materials for and facilitate the implementation of disaster relief activities, including the provision of psychosocial support and mental-health services for children affected by disasters.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR PROGRAMME PLANNING

- Do sector-specific preparedness plans recognize local governments and assign them relevant responsibilities?

- Are community shelters, warehouses and other local government buildings operational at a level sufficient to save lives and support livelihoods?

- Do community preparedness plans exist? Are they updated in line with other preparedness plans at the district and municipal level?

- Are community-level early warning systems connected to district, regional and nation-wide early warning systems?

- Do mechanisms exist to communicate updated information on hazard risks (e.g., increased flooding, heatwave) to vulnerable communities?

3. PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE,
DECENTRALIZATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

UNICEF country offices working on preparedness may consider:

- Supporting the formation of subnational emergency preparedness clusters, which involve all logistics stakeholders to facilitate joint planning prior to emergencies.

- Supporting the capacity building of local government disaster management authorities to develop and implement disaster simulations, with the aim of increasing child and youth readiness to act.

- Developing estimates of the impact of investments in prevention as compared to recovery, to understand and assess the significant direct and indirect costs of disasters on vulnerable children and communities in hazard-prone areas.

- Assessing restrictions and broader regulatory frameworks attached to intergovernmental fiscal transfers to local

governments, particularly for funds directed at critical service-delivery assets such as schools, primary-health-care facilities and emergency shelters.

Even where humanitarian clusters to increase local disaster preparedness are in place, local initiatives need to be backed up by quality standards and baselines to ensure effective accountability. Quality standards can help to drive the process of incorporating hazard preparedness into the everyday practice of local government staff, executive officers and elected officials. As one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, the Philippines has been proactive in institutionalizing DRR in performance review and accountability frameworks for municipalities. Incorporating indicators around disaster prevention and preparedness into platforms that assess municipal performance can be a useful entry-point for UNICEF to deliver technical assistance and to raise awareness of the effects of disasters.

UNICEF PHILIPPINES

Local disaster preparedness and the Seal of Good Local Governance

The Republic of the Philippines Department of the Interior and Local Government annually assesses provincial, city and municipal governments on disaster preparedness as one of six criteria for receiving the Seal of Good Local Governance. The disaster preparedness criterion focuses on the implementation of school-level disaster preparedness planning and on how effectively local government authorities perform oversight functions. In 2017, 1,715 local government units were evaluated (an increase of 2 per cent on 2016), with 28 provinces, 61 cities and 359 municipalities (448 local government units in total) receiving the Seal (an increase of 46 per cent on 2016). Local government units that receive the Seal are eligible to access special funds from the national government via the Performance Challenge Fund.

UNICEF NIGERIA

Improving early warning systems through community-based disaster risk reduction

UNICEF Nigeria collaborated with Lagos State Emergency Management Agency to pilot a community-based DRR project in six communities within the Ajeromi-Ifelodun Local Government Authority in Lagos. Community resilience was strengthened through the training of 58 community leaders, market women, traditional birth attendants and youth leaders. As part of the pilot programme, 20 women and 38 men were trained on DRR in the WASH sector, including on the setting up of six generator-powered boreholes and six latrines with hand-washing facilities. Early warning systems for epidemics, flood alert systems and fire prevention teams were established as part of the pilot programme. The communities also created their own community development associations and project management and monitoring teams.

SAMPLE INDICATORS

- Percentage of municipalities in which the emergency committees have a comprehensive emergency preparedness and response (EPR) plan.

- Information on EPR is disseminated through local disaster committees.

- Number of monthly federal- and regional-level multi-sectoral early warning bulletins available per year.

- Number of focus districts with community members who have knowledge and skills in EPR planning.

- Number of districts that have EPR plans that are reviewed annually and which reflect the current needs of the most vulnerable children and women.

- Percentage of schools that incorporate EPR and DRR into school development plans.

- Number of municipalities that implement and monitor EPR and DRR plans with the involvement of civil-society organizations.

- Number of community or local government area-driven (e.g., local emergency management committee) Early Warning Early Action systems established in high-risk states.

- Number of experts at the federal, zonal, regional and district level who have been trained to collect and analyse multi-sectoral early warning and nutrition data.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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3.5 RECOVERY AND BUILDING BACK BETTER

OBJECTIVE	Integration of DRR measures into post-disaster needs assessments and recovery plans is achieved by strengthening inclusive participation and decision-making among excluded and marginalized populations.

Preparedness, response and recovery should be considered as interlinked processes. Investing in disaster risk preparedness and prevention during the recovery phase supports more effective disaster prevention, mitigates impact on vulnerable populations, and reduces time, effort and resources for recovery.[20] UNICEF efforts to foster inclusive recovery, reconstruction and redevelopment following a disaster have tended to stem from close engagement with national disaster management agencies. Future initiatives implemented through programme engagement should consider how to make the shift to local-level, bottom-up engagement that prioritizes vulnerable children, youth and women on the ground.

Taking a more bottom-up approach makes sense, as recovery needs related to housing and human settlements tend to be outsized following destructive disaster and climate-related emergencies. By focusing on affected communities, UNICEF country offices can also leverage resources to strengthen local participation mechanisms that allow the poorest and most vulnerable children, youth and women to take part in recovery planning and to channel recovery funds into their communities.

Points to consider:

- Building on their proximity to hazards at the local level, local governments and communities can play key roles in post-disaster needs assessments and recovery planning. Their knowledge of local conditions can help to ensure that those children and youth facing the greatest risks from disaster (e.g., child trafficking, dropping out of school) are identified by plans put in place for child protection.

- Recovery is a 'window of opportunity' in which to elevate the concerns of the poorest and most vulnerable, for example by creating participatory mechanisms that reverse the exclusionary conditions that created risks before the disaster.

- The equity dimensions of building back better include both material outcomes (e.g., adequate food, secure shelter, access to safe spaces) and governance outcomes (e.g., meaningful decision-making power over key aspects of local recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction).

- To strengthen decision-making capacity for building back better during recovery, all stakeholders must acknowledge and act on the need for inclusive coordination mechanisms.

Sunita Khatik, 27, holds her daughter as she attends a meeting organized by a local women's cooperative in flood affected Mohamadpur village of Bardiya district, western Nepal, Wednesday 16 August 2017.

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[20] Hallegatte, Stephane, Jun Rentschler and Brian Walsh, *Building Back Better: Achieving resilience through stronger, faster, and more inclusive post-disaster reconstruction*, World Bank, Washington, D. C., 2018.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR PROGRAMME PLANNING

- Does the local government have a recovery plan in place? Are the unique needs of children and youth identified in resettlement plans and procedures?

- Which local stakeholders are most influential in regard to rehabilitation and reconstruction?

- What problems exist around acquiring materials and additional technical, financial and human resources during reconstruction? Can immediate solutions to these challenges be adapted from other locations?

- Do local-level land-use policies, zoning regulations or building code standards slow down or prevent local investment (e.g., by households, the private sector)?

- Do local governments issue contracts to the private sector or community-based organizations during recovery, rehabilitation or reconstruction?

PROGRAMMING TIP: ADOLESCENT PARTICIPATION IN BUILDING BACK BETTER

Resources are available to support planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation during the formulation of Country Programme Management Plans for programme outputs that involve adolescent participation. The UNICEF Guidance on Child Participation in Local Governance outlines key programme planning measures for country offices to consider when supporting local governments, with the aim of improving child and youth participation.[21]

UNICEF country offices working to prepare for recovery, or actively supporting recovery, may consider:

- Advocating for and supporting formal local government and youth participation in post-disaster needs assessment and recovery planning.

- Developing a budget brief[22] to quantify how much budget support is available for subnational planning in a post-disaster context.

- Supporting, in disaster-prone localities, the formation of a formal committee or stakeholder working group that can design, implement and oversee a child-sensitive, post-disaster needs assessment.

- Establishing and supporting capacity-building organizations that can train local government authorities on pre-disaster recovery planning.

- Developing disaster scenarios for exposed villages, districts and municipalities, and using these scenarios to facilitate community-level awareness of and planning for recovery and rehabilitation.

- Working with local governments to establish minimum standards for recovery service providers that recognize the unique needs and interests of children and adolescents, disaggregated by age, gender and health status, etc.

- Supporting the development of a national-level disaster recovery policy framework that recognizes vulnerable children and youth, and is backed by a central coordination unit with representation from district and local governments.

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21 de Wijn, Marija, *Child Participation in Local Governance. A UNICEF Guidance Note,* United Nations Children's Fund, New York, January 2017. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/UNICEF-Child-Participation-in-Local-Governance.pdf accessed> 18 February 2020.

22 Budget briefs analyse the size and composition of budget allocations to sectors that matter most for children in the current fiscal year as well as offer insights into the efficiency, equity and adequacy of past spending. See for instance: https://www.unicef.org/esa/reports/budget-briefs.

UNICEF NEPAL

Linking risk awareness to disaster preparedness during rehabilitation

Following the earthquakes that devastated Nepal in 2015, UNICEF Nepal worked to increase the capacity of 96 community radio stations (across 56 districts) to develop radio programmes that will help communities better prepare for and respond to future emergencies. UNICEF continues to chair the Communicating with Affected Communities working group, which helps to coordinate the communication efforts of partners in the rehabilitation phase and to develop communication preparedness plans for future disasters. Communication and social mobilization initiatives focusing on building community capacity in DRR and dealing with issues such as human trafficking and unsafe migration were rolled out in five earthquake-affected districts with a high prevalence of human trafficking. A training manual on youth mobilization to raise awareness of DRR, safe migration and human trafficking was developed, and 156 youth mobilizers were trained. Youth mobilizers were engaged in conducting fortnightly awareness-raising sessions with more than 400 community-based adolescent and youth groups in target areas.

UNICEF PHILIPPINES

Rebuilding cold chain storage for vaccines

The decision to construct 17 new buildings for cold chain storage for vaccines stemmed from the inaccessibility and destruction of existing facilities dedicated to this purpose as a result of Typhoon Haiyan. The project, led by UNICEF Philippines, became more ambitious as dedicated sites on which to construct the new buildings were required. A series of meetings and negotiations at the national, provincial and city government level was necessary for UNICEF to secure government provision of appropriate land. In addition, the pieces of land identified for construction needed to be covered by a commitment from mayors at the municipal level: special resolutions had to be put in place to protect the facilities from being evicted following the then forthcoming national elections in 2016. UNICEF undertook the procurement of services. Following an international tender, a China-based company was identified for the construction of the facilities; a separate tender was issued for the construction of the buildings' foundations. As a prerequisite, UNICEF ensured that local government unit officials were committed to taking responsibility for the operating and maintenance costs of the facilities and their equipment, including the management of local human resources. Currently, 340 municipalities benefit from the existence of the facilities.

SAMPLE INDICATORS

- Percentage of community radio stations in the affected areas that broadcast programmes in line with a communication plan during an emergency period.

- Number and percentage of school-aged children and adolescents in the affected areas who are newly enrolled in or have returned to school (including early childhood education programmes) following interruption to education services caused by the emergency.

- Percentage of community agents in the affected areas who communicate with communities in line with a communication plan during an emergency period.

- Number of local government units with restored or improved cold chain storage for vaccines.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
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United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Build Back Better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, UNISDR, Geneva, 2017. Available at: <www.preventionweb.net/files/53213_bbb.pdf>, accessed 18 February 2020.

On 29 May 2015, Gorkha, one of the severely earthquake-affected districts in Nepal. Four teachers died in the school, where a School Improvement Programme training was underway on 25 April.

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A Rohingya woman carrying her infant child walks through muddy streets in Kutupalong Makeshift Settlement for Rohingya refugees in Ukhiya, a sub-district of Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh, Tuesday 13 June 2017

4. CONCLUSION

Risk-informed programming at UNICEF includes educating and mobilizing communities to make demands on local governments to provide child-sensitive protective infrastructure and services, and equipping local governments with the capacity and tools to reduce and prevent disaster risks through inclusive disaster risk governance.

Sector engagement should prioritize DRR according to the unique opportunities established by sector policies, plans and special programmes, while recognizing that effective DRR at the local level is a shared endeavour involving multiple sectors.

The overall effectiveness of sector-driven DRR initiatives can be bolstered by combining bottom-up local government and community-based activities that foster transparent and accountable local governance systems with top-down decentralization reforms that incentivise local governments and communities to work together to reduce vulnerability and prevent the formation of new disaster risks for children.

Multi-sectoral policies and programmes directed at reducing child vulnerability, limiting hazard exposure and enhancing community capacity to adapt to the effects of climate variability achieve coherence at the local level. Local government, in coordination with the private sector and civil society, is often the level of government best placed to successfully implement cross-sectoral integration in the interests of the poorest and most vulnerable children.

On 16 January 2016, Maya Gurung, aged 30, covers her daughter Ritu Gurung, aged 4, to protect from cold wearther after snowfall in Gupsi Pakha, in Laprak, in Gorkha district, Nepal.

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Nine-year-old Sumaiya stands outside her mud hut in Kutupalong Makeshift Settlement for Rohingya refugees in Ukhiya, a sub-district of Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh, Tuesday 13 June 2017.

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