

Disaster Risk Reduction in CCCD Programs

Disasters have the potential to destroy years of development effort and ruin local livelihoods in seconds. Disasters are occurring with increased frequency and climate change is expected to exaggerate hazards.

By embedding Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) elements, the CCCD program aims to boost the resilience and capacity of communities and make them disaster-smart and risk-informed. DRR aims to reduce and manage existing and prevent new risks, all contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

Definitions

- Disaster: an event that causes human suffering and damage
- Disaster Risk: the likelihood of a disaster occurring
- Disaster Risk Reduction: lowering the likelihood of a disaster occurring
- Disaster smart: state of mind of being aware of disaster risk, taking action to lower the risk, and knowing the implications of actions and hazards.

Goals of DRR

- CCCD programs are risk-informed and disaster smart.
- Communities are more resilient and less vulnerable to hazards they might experience.
- Political, economic, cultural, and natural root causes of disasters are addressed.
- Community vulnerabilities to hazard impacts are lowered.

Why DRR:

- Disasters can have a devastating impact on health, livelihoods, and the environment.
- DRR saves lives.
- Prevention is more cost-effective than disaster response.
- DRR increases the sustainability of programs.
- Increasing frequency and intensity of hazards.

General remarks

- When hazards and disasters are mentioned, both climate (e.g. drought, floods) and non-climate related hazards and disasters (e.g. earthquakes, volcanoes) are included.
- Hazards and disasters can be slow (e.g. droughts) or fast onset (e.g. flash floods).
- Besides a focus on CCCD components, wider community level resource management (e.g. forest, non-agricultural lands, or settlement location) is a key aspect in this as well.
- Implementing DRR does not mean a disaster will not happen, but everything is done to minimize the chance of a disaster and lower its impact.
- Engaging in DRR contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Please refer to chapter 9 of Help a Child's Disaster Response Policy for a figure relating DRR to the SDGs.

DRR in Help a Child

- Help a Child will include a disaster risk perspective in all its activities. Relevant assessments such as hazard and vulnerability assessments are a mandatory part of programming. DRR activities are based on these assessments and depend on the local need.
- Help a Child's way of working in development projects addresses the 3 main pillars of the Sendai Framework: 1) Prevention and hazard reduction, 2) Increasing preparedness & strengthening resilience and 3) Implementation of integrated and inclusive measures.
- Help a Child's first priority is disaster prevention but also aims to increase preparedness and resilience.
- Help a Child actively engages with local, sub-national, and national governments and will also do this concerning DRR.
- Help a Child will continue to include DRR elements in its Program Cycle Management.
- Help a Child is a member of several partnerships that are engaged in DRR, such as the Dutch Relief Alliance, the Dutch Coalition for Humanitarian Innovation, and Prisma.

DRR and CCCD projects

Effective DRR directly links to Help a Child's aim of the sustainable impact of the CCCD program. It encourages social cohesion, functional social structures, fosters adaptability, resilience, and increased capacity. Below is described how DRR links to different CCCD aspects and how it will be integrated into the CCCD programming. The descriptions below give an overview of DRR activities but are not exhaustive. Other activities may be implemented where suitable.

Program Design: Disaster risk is considered in all steps of the program design, from conducting community-based needs assessments and context analyses, and Theory of Change development¹ to evaluation. This includes local hazard assessment, vulnerability and capacity assessment, as well as an analysis of dynamic pressures and root causes of vulnerability. DRR indicators are integrated to the Help a Child scorecards and enriched with specific disaster resilience indicators². During the Community Challenge Phase, the factors that contribute to potential disaster (e.g., Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) are assessed with the communities and a locally owned plan to address those factors and reduce disaster risks (Community-based Disaster Risk Management plan) is developed as part of the Community Action Plan. Communities are enabled to identify and challenge the social, political, and economic structures which contribute to their vulnerability. In this way

¹ For example, Participatory Assessment of Disaster Risk (PADR- adapted from Roots 9, Reducing Risks in our communities, Tearfund, 2011) will be included in Help a Child's M&E tools for CCCD program design, monitoring and evaluation.

² This will be done with the *Characteristics of a Disaster Resilient Community*, Twigg 2009.



community vulnerabilities and capacities are addressed by supporting communities to identify risks, underlying and immediate causes, making a risk management and a contingency plan. The risk management plan is a part of the Community Action plan. Children, parents, and youth are involved in this.

Early Childhood Development: Children are made aware of existing and future risks in their environment through plays, games, and lessons included in the CCCD methodology. Schools in program areas are encouraged to give lessons on risk of natural hazards and disasters and to have contingency drills. Needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of children on disasters are included in the program design. This increases their preparedness and resilience. Children are often adversely affected by disaster impact and their views on risks and measures to mitigate them are important for preventing avoidable disaster impact.

Parenting: Parents are involved in the community DRR process and learn how to address disaster risk with their children. They are made aware of risks from natural hazards in their environment, their vulnerabilities, and capacities. Examples are how and where to store valuable household items, strengthen their house structure, create escape routes and go over them with their children.

Food Security and Livelihoods: Help a Child uses the Integrated Farm Plan (PIP) approach which is focused on resilient farming, increased food security and sustainable agriculture. In the approach, community members learn to identify risk related to food security and adopt best practices to mitigate the impact of climate change, drought, and other risks.

Self Help Groups (SHG): Awareness raising on disaster risks as well as lessons on how the SHG can advocate/lobby for DRR activities and implement risk-reducing activities themselves will be incorporated in SHG sessions. Participants allocate a portion of their savings in a disaster preparedness fund. SHG's can also engage in active DRR by using pooled funds to reduce risks.

Good governance: DRR will be a standard topic in the mandate and tasks of community-based bodies in Help a Child' programs. These bodies can be people's institutions like SHGs or Community Development Councils, individuals, like local village leaders and government officials, or other local stakeholders. Disaster risk and possibilities for its reduction will be included in the discussions, plans, and coordination of these bodies.

Youth & Work (Y&W): Y&W projects aim to increase economic and social resilience of youth (persons between 15-25 years of age). They make use of an awareness program to increase knowledge of youth on how to get access to finance, land, information, and skills. In the program, sessions on hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks related to the context of the program will be included. In focusing on sustainable agricultural (self-)employment, the Y&W approach is also closely linked to the DRR approach in PIP.



DRR guidelines in the CCCD program

Below, general guidelines are introduced for different areas of DRR in CCCD. They do not represent individual concrete steps to be taken but rather milestones, best practices, and goals aimed for. They do not stand on their own but provide an overview of how DRR will be included in different CCCD aspects.

Integrate DRR in the preparation phase

Needs assessment, analyses, and area selection integrate DRR information.

- What hazards are present in the potential program area?
- How exposed is the area and the potential program locations to hazards?
- How susceptible are locals to hazard impact?
- Are locals aware of disaster risk and ways to reduce it?
- What are the root causes and pressure contributing to local vulnerability?
- What is the attitude of local governance structures towards DRR?
- Is programming realistically expected to reduce disaster risk in the area?
- Is local disaster risk manageable or would disasters impede program implementation?

Include DRR in the community challenge

The whole community is involved in DRR planning and implementation.

- Local project participants will be actively involved in determining their capacity and vulnerability, as well as the most pressing hazards and their impacts.
- Local project participants will determine their desired action plan and situation themselves.
- All sections of the community are included and contribute to DRR planning: the most vulnerable, women, men, children, youth, the elderly, different sectors and groups in the community.
- Hazard Assessment, Vulnerability, and Capacity Assessment, and the Pressure and Release model are applied in a participatory manner.

DRR during program implementation

- A community-level risk management plan is created with the community as part of the community action plan
- Activities from the plan are implemented in a participatory manner, empowering project participants and giving ownership to them.
- Resilience focused indicators are set to measure improvement.
- Minimum DRR action to prevent and mitigate disasters are taken: contingency planning or climate-resilient farming techniques.

Create DRR systems in CCCD

- Project staff from Red een Kind and partner organisations receive basic DRR training including at a minimum Hazard assessment, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, Community level risk management planning trainings.



- Strategic decisions will consider DRR: This includes consideration of disaster risk in programming, whether Red een Kind can reasonably lower disaster risk in a given context and whether programming is impacted by possible hazards.
- Identify DRR focal points in each country office.
- Identify personnel responsible for DRR implementation in each project.
- Mainstreaming DRR in development programming will increase sustainability of the program.

