



Ma Myo Thu presents her classes' school evacuation map in Myanmar.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

IDENTIFYING AND REDUCING RISKS OF DISASTERS PROTECTS CHILDREN AND SAFEGUARDS THEIR FUTURE

OUR CHALLENGE

Disasters such as floods, cyclones and drought threaten the lives, rights and needs of millions of children around the world – posing a serious threat to their education, protection and well-being. Recent decades have seen significant growth in the number of reported disasters, and it is expected that this trend is likely to be aggravated by climate change.

On top of this, global demographic shifts and urbanisation have introduced a new dynamic to the vulnerabilities and risks affecting communities. UN-Habitat estimates that more than 54% of the world's population is currently living in an urban environment, with 863 million people in slum conditions. Urban areas are now recognised as being increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of disasters and climate change. Therefore, Sustainable Development Goal 11 focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Children are particularly vulnerable to climate change and disaster impacts, especially those who are living in marginal environments and situations of poverty. In the coming years, children's vulnerability to disasters is expected to increase as the frequency and intensity of natural disasters rises. So building resilience in children and communities and reducing their vulnerability to disasters has become ever more important.

OUR RESPONSE

Plan International Australia (PIA) works to build resilient communities, engaging with children, communities, civil society, the private sector and government at all levels in risk reduction processes. Focusing on children's long-term needs, PIA applies a systematic approach to identify, assess and reduce the impact of disaster - reducing children's vulnerabilities as well as dealing with the environmental and other hazards that threaten them.

As a child-focused organisation Plan International utilises an innovative child-centred approach to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), enabling children and young people to increase their resilience to disasters and reduce the risk of future disasters in their communities by becoming agents of change. In support of this Plan International works to raise awareness of the risks within communities, support governments both at local and national level to develop risk reduction plans and

Plan International has supported children from 31 disaster-prone countries to prepare for disasters and mitigate the risks.

policy and engage with multiple stakeholders to promote local, innovative solutions.

Central to Plan International's DRR work is improving gender and disability responsiveness. In all programs, gender-related needs are identified and action plans are implemented to integrate this priority. Opportunities are also taken to engage with disability inclusion groups who are active in the countries where we work ensuring that people with disabilities are able to actively participate in programs.

Urban Resilience: In 1950, 30% of the world's population was urban, and by 2050, 70% of the world's population is projected to be urban. As a response to growing urbanisation, increased vulnerability of urban children, and the findings of the study above, Plan International Australia initiated urban resilience programs in Indonesia, Myanmar and Philippines.

OUR PROGRAMS

PIA's DRR programs work to ensure children grow up safely and in resilient communities to be able to realise their rights before, during and after emergencies.

We collaborate with in-country partners to implement DRR programs in six countries in Asia (Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Pakistan) with a portfolio value of over AUD 3 million for 2014-2018. Grant support is received from a variety of institutional donors including the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

We are increasingly focusing our DRR activities to support poor and vulnerable urban areas, engaging with communities and policymakers to identify vulnerabilities and reduce risk. In the Philippines and Indonesia, we work to implement Urban DRR programs to strengthen the resilience among poor urban communities. This includes raising awareness of disaster risk assessing local vulnerabilities and developing community action plans for disaster and safety risk – engaging community members and all levels of government to implement risk mitigation measures linked with long-term resilience.

Through the Safe Schools Initiative PIA, together with other Australian Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), works with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat to ensure that all school children in the region have safer learning facilities, and are equipped with adequate training and skills to identify and reduce risks. The program develops school safety guidelines/framework to be used by ASEAN Members States and promotes regional collaboration for safe school programming. Donors and national government are engaged to ensure increased funding for the safe school program and support for national level policies and strategy.

In Myanmar, PIA collaborates with Plan International Myanmar to build the resilience urban poor communities in Yangon. The program helps to improve community and institutional understanding of climate and disaster risk and promotes resilient practices. It also links with existing programs supported by Plan International Myanmar including DRR, climate change adaptation, community development, gender and inclusion.

In the Pacific, PIA focuses our efforts on disaster preparedness and long-term DRR. We work across the Pacific to increase the awareness and capacity of children, youth and their communities on climate change adaptation and DRR. The program supports them to identify risks and develop DRR strategies. We also seek to support local governments at all levels to engage with children in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management plans, policies and strategies.

OUR KEY PARTNERS

PIA's primary partners are the Plan International Country Offices in developing countries where our programs are based. Together we develop strong partnerships with civil society and governments at all levels ensuring coherence between disaster and development work. In the Pacific, PIA has developed a partnership with the Foundation of Peoples of South Pacific International (FSPI) and the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) to coordinate and implement DRR and Climate Change Adaptation programs through our network partners across the region. PIA came into a partnership with Arup International to address Urban DRR needs in Asia. Together with Arup, build a partnership with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to implements projects under Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF) in Asia. Together with other Australian NGOs, PIA also supports the ASEAN member states, to promote a

strategic partnership and strengthen collaboration in building safer schools throughout the region, enabling children to become more resilient to disasters.

OUR HIGHLIGHTS

The following are some examples of key outcomes within the DRR programs:

- Through the ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative, the program reached 3691 people in FY18
- In the Pacific DRR programs have helped more than 10,000 women, men, girls and boys become more aware of the impact of climate change and environmental issues in their local communities.
- In FY18 in Yangon, Jakarta, and Manila, we supported 17,819 people living in poor urban areas to increase their awareness on the risks and hazards they are vulnerable to, their impact, and how to mitigate these risks, enabling them to be better prepared for disasters.

OUR IMPACT

Through our DRR programs, PIA is bridging the gap between government disaster management processes and community engagement, bringing together key players in the local disaster risk management processes to ensure greater coordination and collaboration both in risk reduction and management. PIA's programs are also supporting youth to increasingly assume leadership roles in their respective communities and take action to reduce identified risks. This is helping to empower them to take on higher roles in national disaster risk reduction processes in the future.

OUR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

PIA's DRR program prioritises investments in research and innovation. Continuous learning and improvement is key to ensuring that program activities achieve effective and sustainable outcomes for communities.

Child Centred Urban Resilience Framework (CCURF)

In 2016, PIA developed the first CCURF in the sector in partnership with Arup International. This was financed by the Australian and Swedish governments. The CCURF was endorsed and launched at the Habitat III – the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016. This became Plan International's guiding framework for designing and implementing urban programs. PIA is now revising the CCURF to align with our new strategy towards gender transformative urban programming.

Gamified Safe Schools App

The safe schools game is an educational application developed under our Safe Schools program for children to understand how natural disasters happen, what impacts are caused to schools and how the 'Safe School' campaign may help to reduce risks and protect schools from natural disasters. The interactive digital game is a fun learning tool that uses interesting puzzles, quizzes, simulations and animations to communicate the ideas and principles in a way that is easy to understand even for young children. The downloadable free App features graphics and animated educational content to increase children's awareness of natural disasters and preparedness response, and is available in five languages: Bahasa Indonesia; English; Chinese; Cambodian; and Filipino.

OUR FUTURE PRIORITIES

Over the coming year PIA will work together with our partners in-country to see the following developments within the DRR programs:

- Lead the way in identifying and reducing the risk for the urban poor in built-up environments, through innovative partnerships.
- Seeking further opportunities to collaborate and work with the private sector where appropriate, supporting innovation in DRR.
- Revision of CCURF to align with the Plan International Global Strategy.
- Urban Resilience Program Integration with other PIA Urban programs

Institutional Donors

As an accredited NGO with the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) many of PIA's projects are supported by Australian Aid through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program' (ANCP).



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