

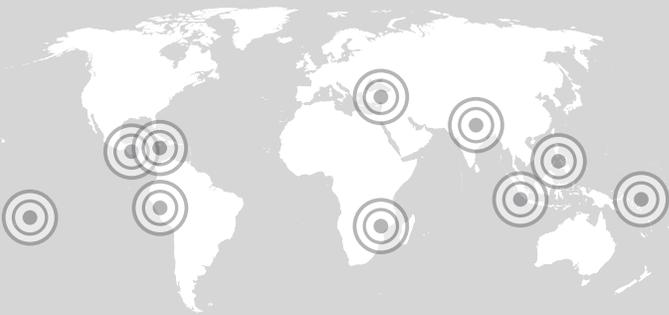
Program Profiles

*A series highlighting key
GFDRR-supported initiatives*

Global Program for Safer Schools

REGION: GLOBAL

FOCUS: RISK IDENTIFICATION, RISK
REDUCTION, RESILIENT RECOVERY



PARTNERS:

The problem of unsafe schools requires concerted and sustained efforts by many partners. The GPSS collaborates with a wide range of international partners, including United Nations agencies such as UNICEF, UNESCO, and UNISDR; international NGOs such as Save the Children; and private sector companies like Arup, an international engineering and design firm.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Natural disasters often damage or destroy school infrastructure, threatening educational opportunities and risking the lives of schoolchildren. The Global Program for Safer Schools (GPSS) aims to make school facilities and the communities they serve more resilient to natural hazards.

The GPSS works to reduce the physical impact of disasters on school infrastructure and minimize the negative educational outcomes that result from disasters by improving the quality and enforcement of building codes, building institutional capacity for risk reduction, and integrating disaster risk reduction into the design, planning, and construction/retrofitting of schools. The initiative partners with ministries of finance, public works, and education, to integrate risk considerations into new and existing education investments to increase resilience on a large scale.

Published October 2015



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

PROGRAM IN ACTION:

Making Students in Peru Safer

In Peru, earthquakes pose a major threat to children's safety and education. The GPSS team worked alongside the Ministry of Education to perform seismic risk assessments for 1,969 public school facilities in 49 districts in the capital city of Lima, Peru. Through a detailed disaster analysis of this data, they discovered that by improving the physical safety of 600 schools—or about 30% of the country's school buildings—overall seismic risk to schools could be reduced by 70% in Lima.

This information helped the government institute a nationwide Structural Retrofitting Program for school infrastructure to build resilience to seismic risk within the education sector. This program has already made more than 29,000 school facilities more resilient to earthquakes, helping protect the lives of more than 2.5 million students.

Building Earthquake Resilience in Nepal

On April 25, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. Educational services were severely disrupted and education infrastructure was impacted both in urban centers and rural areas. An estimated 5,700 public school facilities, composed of about 15,000 school buildings, were damaged in the 14 most affected districts.

After the earthquake, the GPSS has been providing advice and technical support to the Department of Education to inform the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the affected education facilities. Following a rapid visual damage assessment, the GPSS is currently conducting a comprehensive structural integrity and damage assessment. This assessment will be finalized by December 2015, and will inform a prioritized investment plan for reconstruction and retrofitting. Finally, the GPSS will provide options on building the resilience of Nepal's existing and new education infrastructure.

CONTACT:

Vica Rosario Bogaerts
vbogaerts@worldbank.org
www.gfdr.org/areas/SafeSchools



FUTURE GOALS:

Close to 1.2 billion students are enrolled in primary and secondary schools worldwide, of whom 875 million live in high seismic risk zones. Hundreds of millions more face regular hazards such as floods, landslides, extreme winds, and fires. Since children spend up to 50 percent of their time in school buildings, it is imperative that these buildings meet disaster resilient standards to help protect lives and educational continuity.

To help address this challenge, the Safer Schools Program is scaling up support for large-scale government investments in education through technical assistance and expertise. With early successes in Peru, GPSS and its partners are well-positioned to help make global education more resilient to climate and disaster risk. Moving forward, safer school activities are starting in Armenia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mozambique, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu with contributions from Australia, Japan, and other donors.