

Children have knowledge and skills to protect themselves and help others - Azerbaijan

Children understanding of disasters, risks and their mitigation

Before the Community Resilience Project (CRP):

Although World Vision has been working in the CRP target area for about 20 years, there was no activity covering emergencies, disaster preparedness or mitigation issues. The CRP was the first initiative, with specific focus on **children because they are the most vulnerable during emergencies or disasters**.

Before the project, the children of the target **22 communities** had no basic knowledge on how to act during emergencies or disasters, what to do to prevent them, and how to do it right. Many schools had never practiced simulations, never organized trainings on the use of fire extinguishers and other tools during emergencies, never seen any printed materials about emergencies, disasters – earthquake, flood, ecological problems, pollution, etc.



Lachin winter ground, Mishni community, before and during a school road construction, so that children can access the school even during periods of heavy rain. Autumn 2013

What did the Community Resilience Project contributed to?

- **72 training sessions** have been organized and conducted up to date, where
- Over **500 children participated**; the information was presented using pictures, audio and video, considering the ages of the children.
- The printed materials have been read by over **700 children**, and over 500 of them found the materials useful;
- Over **500 children** have learned how to verbalize their personal information in case of an emergency, etc.
- The children were also engaged in preparation of **community disaster preparedness plans and strategies** for disaster preparedness and mitigation.
- **Earthquake and fire simulations** were conducted with **420 children**.



Now:

The children have sufficient knowledge about issues such as climate change, reforestation, tree planting and disaster preparedness, as well as practical lifesaving skills including first aid, disease prevention, use of fire extinguishers, evacuation, etc.

This information helps children reach their full potential and contributes to their realization of their right to take initiatives towards self-security in both normal life and disaster situations. **600 school children directly benefited** from the project activities which accounts for over 21% of all children in the area.

Communities take action to mitigate risk

Communities able to assess their needs and address them

Before the Community Resilience Project (CRP):

There was no information, knowledge and skills in the communities to assess their vulnerabilities and risks and develop strategies to address them. There was no disaster preparedness plans, no capacity building events to provide the community groups with knowledge and skills on how to act, what to do and what not to do during emergencies.

What did the CRP contributed to:

- **Trainings** have been conducted for over **400 community residents**, almost half of whom were women.
- Different information **materials were developed** and printed considering the common threats in the area, such as, **flood, earthquake, as well as global warming and climate change**.
- The participants were equipped with knowledge on **disaster preparedness, and established Community Disaster Preparedness Plans (CDPP)**.
- **Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) workshops were facilitated in 20 communities;** where over **300 community representatives participated**, with 35% of participant's been female.
- The communities were **trained on writing proposals** to address the risks identified and registered during preparation of CDPP and VCA.
- The project also established **coordination with other organizations implementing similar activities in other parts of the country**, and with the local department of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.
- The project also focused on the **training for teachers to ensure easier dissemination of information and sustain the achievements**, as they are permanent residents of the target communities, leaders and closest to children. With assistance from and in close partnership with the local education department, the teachers were trained and provided with resource training materials.

Now:

Based on the outputs of VCA exercise WV in assisted community groups in the **construction of drainage canals** and other **flood mitigation activities**. The communities themselves provided labour to do this in conjunction with the local government departments. WV Agjebedi office announced **a call for micro-project proposals** in the target communities early this year. 14 communities developed and presented proposals to W based on VCA workshops which they conducted requesting necessary tools, equipment and materials to address some of their immediate needs in order to avoid or mitigate the risk of disasters. Communities have been provided with **necessary trainings** on how to implement, monitor and report on these micro-projects. In all cases **an MOU has been established** with the local government and community groups in order to ensure the maintenance of these projects.



Lachin winterground, Orta oba, Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (COVACA) training for the community group leaders.



Training and simulation in school with local Disaster Management committee – Jan 2013

Proposals were submitted by **14 communities and 10 schools** including the following projects:

- Cleaning and creating a drainage system,
- Strengthening of 1 dam on Kur river,
- 8 schools and 2 kindergartens provided with fire-extinguishers,
- Installation of 6 big diameter water conduit pipes in Hajilar and neighbouring communities to protect agricultural lands and houses from ground water,
- Strengthening of water dam in Gaygi community.