

Helping families reduce & mitigate risk



Growing political instability and increased vulnerability to natural disasters puts children living in poor communities across the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Southern Asia region at even greater risk. The multi-dimensional nature of hazards across the region make it hard for communities to adequately prepare. World Vision works with communities to manage disaster-related risks and build resilience against future disasters.

WHY RESILIENCE



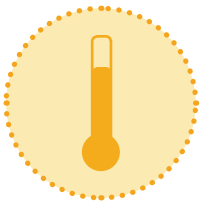
More than **2.6 million** children are living as refugees as a result of the crisis in Syria alone. (UNHCR, 2015)



Over the past three decades, disasters have affected more than **30 million people** in the Middle East and Northern Africa region and have cost their economies an estimated **\$20 billion**. (World Bank et. al, 2014)



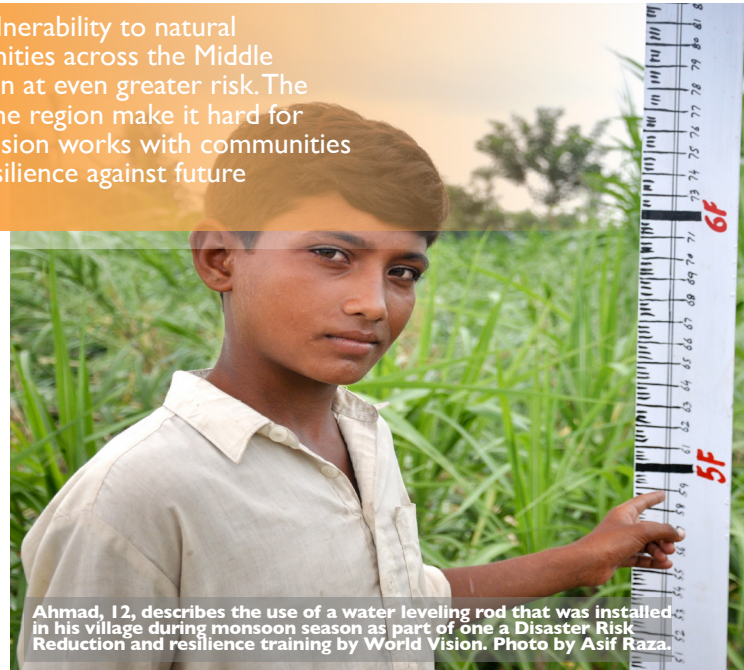
The number of flash floods and people affected or killed by them has **doubled over the past 10 years** for a variety of reasons: increased construction with concrete, inadequate drainage systems and increased settlements in low-lying areas. (World Bank, 2014)



Climate change is predicated to lead to a **temperature increase of 3-5 degrees, a 10 per cent reduction of water supply** as well as an increase in severe weather events, such as drought, floods and dust storms. (Elasha/UNDP, 2010)



3 million children are out of school in Syria and Iraq. As the violence expands, millions more are at risk of becoming a "lost generation" deprived of the knowledge and skills needed to be successful adults. (UNICEF, 2015)



Ahmad, 12, describes the use of a water leveling rod that was installed in his village during monsoon season as part of one a Disaster Risk Reduction and resilience training by World Vision. Photo by Asif Raza.

WHAT WE DO

At World Vision, resilience is recognised as one of the key drivers of sustainability. Our goal is to contribute to the sustained well-being of children by addressing the risks they face. Though our work, we aspire to enable vulnerable families and hazard-prone communities to:

- **Identify and build individual and institutional capacities** needed to prepare for future crises through working with local governments and/or other service providers.
- **Understand the nature and potential impact of the hazards and vulnerabilities they face** in order to enhance/initiate early warning and early actions.
- **Use knowledge and education about risks to build a culture of resilience** at individual, household and community levels.
- **Carry out integrated sector development activities that reduce the underlying risk factors** and mitigate the negative impacts of hazards and climate change with the goal to strengthen resilience so that their lives and livelihoods are minimally disrupted by future disasters.
- **Be prepared to respond effectively in the event of a crisis.** During times of disaster, impacts and losses can be substantially reduced if authorities, individuals and communities in hazard-prone areas are well prepared and equipped with knowledge and capacities for effective disaster management.



Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training in Bethlehem Area Development Program. Photo by World Vision staff.

TRAINING ENABLES TALAL TO COPE WITH ANY DISASTER

Talal, 8, and his friend, Zeshan, were returning home after their early-morning Quran lesson when Talal saw dark smoke rising from a tailor shop located on a small street in his village.

Thankfully, Talal and Zeshan had recently attended a World Vision training on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in their small village and knew just what to do. "It was about 6 a.m.," recalls Talal. "When we saw that the shop caught fire, we quickly recalled the precautionary measures that should be taken in case of fire."

Talal sent Zeshan to inform adults and community members about the incident. Within a few minutes, people from the community gathered and started to put out the fire.

"I learned from the training that whenever you see fire, first try to find out its cause," remembers Talal. He and the other villagers soon realised that the shop had caught fire due to a short circuit. They first switched off the electricity and then started throwing sand and soil on the burnt wires, a technique they learned in the training. Within five minutes they controlled the fire and saved the shop.

Muhammad Sajjad, 32, the tailor is grateful for the boys' quick reaction: "I was so [worried] when I saw my shop on fire. There

CHILDREN LEARN TO PREVENT OR REDUCE THE RISK OF DISASTERS THROUGH TRAINING, PLAY AND THEATRE

Through a partnership between World Vision and the civil defense, teachers and children from eight schools in Bethlehem Area Development Programme were trained in disaster risk reduction techniques and practices.

Two teachers and approximately 30 children were chosen from each school to form a school safety committee. These individuals were then invited to attend an intense, hands-on training on preparing for and responding to disasters.

Thanks to these trainings, more than 1,500 children are now safer in their schools and their local communities in this area where World Vision is working through its Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza programme.



Talal (right) and Zeshan (left) practicing an evacuation drill with a child. They learned this from Disaster Risk Reduction Training. Photo by Asif Raza, World Vision.

were 20 suits in the shop that I had to stitch. Thank God we saved them through timely rescue."

Recognizing the community's vulnerability, World Vision Pakistan launched a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project to prepare people to face any disaster. The project aims to strengthen community resilience by creating awareness of risks and training people to prepare for, and cope with, any disaster, including floods, fires and earthquakes.

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