

ActionAid's Disaster Risk Reduction through Schools (DRRS) project used schools as community hubs through which to institutionalise DRR thinking and action.

### *Improving safety in schools and supporting quality education*

- Schools must be able to withstand disasters and keep children safe – capital investments that increase the likelihood of schools surviving unscathed can help keep children in education when disasters strike

### *Using schools as entry points for DRR for/with the whole community*

- Schools bring together and involve the community as a whole
- Schools can become safe heavens for the whole community during times of disaster
- A focus on children can help create a sense of urgency around the need to analyse and address hazards and risks, as well as provide a long-term perspective
- Schools are a knowledge hub in communities, and a place where traditional knowledge and new ideas can cross-fertilise. They are therefore the placement of choice for “knowledge-based” work
- Children are powerful actors and can be excellent messengers of a culture of prevention



In Bangladesh, schools built as part of the DRRS project double as cyclone shelters capable of housing the whole community in the event of a disaster. Photo Silva Ferretti/ActionAid

### *Linking DRR to rights work and better governance*



Children in Bangladesh raise their hands when asked if they discuss disasters at home with their families. Parents confirmed that children acted as strong messengers for information on disasters and risk reduction. Photo Silva Ferretti/ActionAid

- By working through schools, gaps in protection – understood as obtaining respect for the full range of human rights – can be exposed, thereby protecting children and promoting and defending their rights, particularly in relation to human security and quality education.
- As valued public institutions at the heart of communities, which form a key part of the state's educational system with links to other government bodies, schools are an appropriate and powerful starting point for work on citizenship and governance.