

COP27 Green Zone Side Event
Protecting education systems against the impact of climate change
Thursday 10 November 2022
Summary and Highlights

On Thursday 10 November the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES) and Save the Children held a panel discussion at COP27 to:

- Increase awareness about the impact of climate change on children's education through the voices of youth, government, climate, and education actors.
- Highlight the revised all-hazards Comprehensive School Safety Framework 2022-2030 (CSSF) as an effective solution for protecting education systems from, and adapting them to, the impact of climate change.
- To share learnings and examples through the voices of children/youth, governments, and private sector, of where the framework is already being implemented to protect children from the impact of climate change.
- To encourage further support and investment from global actors to protect more education systems from, and adapt them to, the impact of climate change.

The panel event was chaired by Inger Ashing, CEO of Save the Children International and speakers included:

- Mayson, Youth Representative, Save the Children International
- David Knaute, Climate Change and Education Consultant, UNESCO
- Christa-Joy Burton, Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda
- Marc Fancy, Executive Director, Prudence Foundation
- Charles North, Deputy Chief Executive, Global Partnership for Education
- Jerry Velasquez, Director for Mitigation and Adaptation, Green Climate Fund.

During the event (recording available [here](#)) we heard powerful testimony from the youth speaker, 17-year-old Mayson about the impact of the climate crisis on children's education and what they want world leaders to do in response.

"In the past few years, schools have had to close due to the heavy rainfall and difficult weather conditions. Roads were blocked so we were not able to reach our schools. We had to miss important classes and exams. It was sometimes hard for us to catch up with the heavy curriculum."

"Children will be the most affected by climate change now and in the future. This is why child participation in climate action is very important, not just for me, but for all children around the world. We want to be heard and see our recommendations taken forward."

David Knaute of UNESCO highlighted that the CSSF 2022-2030 is an effective and innovative solution to protect and adapt our education systems to the impacts of the climate crisis.

Mr Knaute explained that the CSSF is an action-oriented framework promoting child rights and resilience in the education sector. The Framework was revised for the period 2022-2030 in order to mobilise education and climate stakeholders as part of the Decade of Action, so as to reach targets set in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030.

"The CSSF supports countries to revise their policy frameworks to include integrating climate change and climate resilience into education and vice-versa integrating education into climate policies"

Christa-Joy Burton of the Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda shared learnings of implementing the principles of the CSSF to adapt the education system to deal with the impact of climate change.

"We (the Department of Environment) collaborate a lot with the Ministry of Education of Antigua and Barbuda...our government has its own model safe school programme (MSSP) which is adopted from the CSSF. This makes sure that DRR (disaster risk reduction) is included in the school curriculum and that when we talk about preparedness, to make sure our schools are more prepared, and students and teachers can be involved in the process alongside the people who have to implement the programmes."

Ms Burton also highlighted the importance of grants, partnerships, and capacity building to ensure the principles of the CSSF can be properly implemented.

Charles North of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the largest global fund and partnership dedicated to focusing on education in the poorest countries in the world explained why the CSSF all-hazards approach is important to GPE and why GPE is increasing its focus on climate resilience.

"GPE are very much behind the CSSF we think it is the way to go. We're proud to champion it in the countries we work in. Because if we can get education systems to work, keep the resilience, keep children in school, they will learn more, and lives will be saved."

"We (GPE) are really ramping this up, looking at climate and education.... Our approach to education is how we are also approaching climate. We take a systems approach. We look at the entire education system and that's how we say: where is the critical part of that education system? If we can address that bottleneck that is holding back the education, we want the children to have, let's address that and we can have change at scale."

Jerry Velasquez of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the world's largest multilateral climate fund, shared how the GCF with their partners are looking to play a role to respond to the impact of the climate crisis on children's education.

"I would love to have a project that actually takes the Comprehensive School Safety Framework and takes it into the next level, into actual implementation at scale."

In addition to hearing from the education and climate sectors about why strengthening education systems against climate change is important and relevant to them we also heard from the private sector. Marc Fancy of Prudence Foundation, the community investment arm of Prudential plc across Asia and Africa, shared why building resilience in education systems through policy such as the CSSF, so they can cope with the impacts of climate change is important to Prudence Foundation.

"Through Prudence Foundation we're really focused on bringing safety and protection to as many communities as possible and we ideally look at sustainable long-term initiatives focused on education, health & safety. So, supporting efforts focused on building educational resilience and educational continuity... are really aligned to our core objectives"

"With Save the Children in 2018 we brought all our experience (in Comprehensive School Safety) to the Department of Education in the Philippines to ask for their vision on the CSSF..., where are the biggest gaps for them and how could we collaborate between three parties, and bring in others, to look at a large-scale nationwide project. That led us to leveraging innovation, technology, and collaboration to create a DRR management Information system which has been developed with the central government, it's providing an ecosystem that's connecting all 47,000 schools in the Philippines to allow a two-flow of information fundamentally around the CSSF"

The event closed with a compelling call to action from Inger Ashing, for everyone to continue to champion the really important correlation between education and the climate crisis and to ensure we are taking the so desperately needed action to address them both.

Please contact the GADRRRES Secretariat at gadrrres@gmail.com for further information about GADRRRES and the CSSF 2022-2030.