



Disaster Risk Reduction Programming in Asia and the Pacific

Results of the Phase II Study:
Findings from In-Depth Country Case Studies and
Towards an Analytical Framework

AUGUST 2024

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Acknowledgements

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Suggested citation: Mock, N., Meidityawati, B. D., Kopper, R., Whittemore, C., Zelelke, N., & Bahari, M., Franklin, E. (2024). Disaster Risk Reduction Programming in Asia and the Pacific: Results of the Phase II Study: Findings from In-Depth Country Case Studies and Towards an Analytical Framework. World Vision US.

Executive Summary



Indonesia | Children's Day

Case Studies on World Vision's (WV) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) projects in the Asia-Pacific region incorporated in-depth qualitative research across multiple countries to create practical tools for Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DME) that establish a grounded Theory of Change (ToC), measure outcomes more accurately, and strengthen the evidence base for DRR. This phase built upon Phase I¹, conducted by Tulane University researchers, which included a desk review of World Vision (WV) DRR projects and a grey literature review of DRR efforts in Asia and the Pacific, targeted at identifying best practices and gaps to strengthen WV's regional programmes.

Phase II involved field visits to Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Lao PDR, as well as virtual case studies in Vanuatu, Mongolia, and Sri Lanka. Field visits were conducted between November 2023 and March 2024 and employed Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) for data collection. Virtual case studies included a desk study of DRR project documents and virtual interviews with country office staff and government stakeholders in June 2024. The six countries were selected to represent diverse contexts, hazard and risk profiles, funding sources, and staffing structures. The selection was based on findings from Phase I of the study together with scoping interviews with a purposive sample of stakeholders.

World Vision was present the earliest in Lao PDR in 1963, followed by Indonesia (1968), Bangladesh (1970), Sri Lanka (1977), Vanuatu (early 1980s) and Mongolia (1993). Four of the country offices operate sponsorship programmes, while Vanuatu and Mongolia have grant programmes only. Indonesia, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka operate individual sponsorship while Lao's country office (CO) programmes are community sponsorship. The array of programmes prompts an inquiry into whether a more comprehensive approach, which combines sponsorship with Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), might lead to greater effectiveness in comparison to implementing a CBDRM project in isolation (without the support of sponsorship).

Field Case Studies: Indonesia, Bangladesh and Lao PDR

The integration of DRR into sponsorship programming yielded mixed results across the three countries. In Indonesia and Bangladesh, where sponsorship funds were effectively complemented by DRR grants, significant progress was made in enhancing community resilience, spanning from preparedness to mitigation. These achievements were accelerated through robust youth engagement and synergies with savings groups, livelihoods, and WASH initiatives. In contrast, Lao PDR faced challenges due to limited DRR grant funding and a nascent DRR landscape dominated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Vision. The issue of youth migration further complicated DRR efforts in the country. All three countries could benefit from leveraging information technology to strengthen early warning systems and DRR communication strategies.

Virtual Case Studies: Vanuatu, Mongolia, Sri Lanka

Of the three countries studied virtually, only World Vision Sri Lanka (WV Sri Lanka) implemented a sponsorship programmes. The CBDRM initiatives funded by grants were integrated into area programmes where child sponsorship existed. This area programming (AP) approach yielded two key advantages: a strong government partnership and the presence of savings groups. This model effectively reduced community vulnerabilities and enhanced disaster coping capacities in a region prone to frequent hazards.

Vanuatu and Mongolia offered distinct contexts for this comparative analysis. Vanuatu's geographic dispersion across numerous islands exacerbated its disaster risk, while Mongolia grappled with the unique challenge of "dzud," a severe winter hazard that threatened the livelihoods of its primarily pastoral population.

All three countries cultivated strong relationships with their respective national disaster management agencies, resulting in significant policy advocacy achievements. Notably, Vanuatu's emphasis on disability inclusion led to the inclusion of disability data in the national census and family registry.

¹ Nancy Mock et al., "A Review of DRR Programming and Best Practices: Understanding the Effectiveness, Impact, Sustainability, and Scalability of World Vision's DRR Activities in the Asia-Pacific Region," March 2023, <https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/AP%20DRR%20Report.pdf>.

Findings in Relation with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)

- *Understanding Risks varied widely.* To improve, enhance community-level Early Warning Systems (EWS), build local risk analysis capacity, and integrate disaster risk into schools.
- *Strengthening DRR Governance is strong nationally but weak locally.* Focus on sub-national capacity, community-to-national linkages, social inclusion, and piloting with national/subnational disaster management agencies (DMAs).
- *Investing for DRR Resilience requires addressing uneven financing.* Scale solutions for local funding gaps, build local authority capacity, and implement Citizen Voice and Action (CVA).
- *Enhancing Disaster Preparedness shows strong preparedness, but weak recovery and Build Back Better (BBB).* Integrate BBB into planning, develop monitoring indicators, and pilot with DMAs.

Towards a Way Forward

Firstly, DRR should be viewed as an outcome, not just a set of programmes. While preparedness and response efforts are important, they only address part of the problem. Building resilience requires a broader approach, including shock-responsive safety nets and early recovery efforts focused on “building back better.” This means investing in long-term solutions like infrastructure improvements and strengthening community capacities to withstand future disasters.

Secondly, building resilience in organisations and households is crucial for effective disaster risk management. This involves enhancing their ability to withstand, adapt to, and recover from disasters. Key strategies include empowering vulnerable groups like women, people with disabilities, and marginalized populations and promoting financial resilience through savings. Additionally, strong CO commitment to improving social inclusion, as seen in Vanuatu, can improve considerations for disability inclusion in national disaster preparedness and response policies and programmes. Finally, investing in livelihoods is a key strategy for building disaster resilience, according to the field cases studied. Programmes like the Ultra Poor Graduation Model, which help poor households become self-sufficient, has the potential to reduce community and household vulnerability to disasters.

Recommendations

The study recommends that World Vision adopt a more systematic approach to DRR. To achieve this, the organisation should conduct thorough risk assessments, implement a comprehensive DRR strategy, build internal capacity, leverage its strengths in community development and long-term programming, and establish effective monitoring systems. By following these steps, World Vision can significantly enhance its DRR efforts and outcomes.

The measurement strategy should be applied to monitor its progress and outcomes. Firstly, World Vision should regularly monitor areas where it runs DRR programmes. This involves tracking the effects of disasters on people, animals, crops, property, and infrastructure. The goal is to see if these areas are becoming more resilient to disasters over time compared to places without such programmes. The data collected should include information on losses, displacement, aid received, hunger levels, and how people cope with disasters.

Secondly, World Vision should include a few key indicators for measuring DRR at the household and community levels in its performance metrics. This will help track DRR progress consistently across different programmes and regions. Even if not required by donors, projects should include outcome measures (not just intermediate outcomes such as knowledge retention) related to disaster risk reduction (DRR) at the household and community levels. This is important because many projects only focus on outputs, making it difficult to assess the actual impact of DRR efforts. By incorporating these indicators into regular monitoring, World Vision can better assess the impact of its DRR efforts.

Acronyms

AP	Area Programme
BBB	Build Back Better
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
CBDRM	Community- based disaster risk management
CC-DRR	Child Centered DRR
CESP	Community Engagement and Sponsorship Programme
CO	Country Office
CPP	Cyclone Preparedness Programme
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action
DME	Design, Monitoring and Evaluation
DRC	Disaster Resilient Communities
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRUC	Disaster Resilient Urban Community
ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning Systems
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
GoL	Government of Laos
HEA	Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs
HFI	Humanitarian Forum Indonesia
HH	Household
KII	Key Informant Interview
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
MVC	Most Vulnerable Children
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NJ	Nobo Jatra
PNS	Private Non sponsor
RFSA	Resilience Food Security Activity
RT	Research Team
SDRR	Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction in Vulnerable and Disaster-Prone Zones in Bangladesh
ToC	Theory of Change
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPG	Ultra Poor Graduation Model
USAID	The United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WV	World Vision
WVI	World Vision International
WVUS	World Vision United States

I. Background and Introduction

Phase II of the World Vision (WV) Asia-Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) research builds on the literature and desk review of DRR programming in the region conducted by a research team from Tulane University. Phase I research² identified promising practices and gaps in DRR programming in the region more generally and then more specifically in relation to World Vision's programming.

The purpose of this second phase was to contribute to “the development of practical Design, Monitoring and Evaluation (DME) tools for Disaster Risk Reduction to more deeply root DRR interventions in a Theory of Change (ToC), more rigorously measure

outcomes and impacts, and strengthen the foundation for evidence building in the DRR space. At the same time, case study research contributes to the broader evidence base to determine the most effective and sustainable DRR interventions.”

Phase II primarily involved case study research to explore promising practices, areas for improvement and gaps in DRR programming in the field. Phase II included three country case studies that involved field work, and three virtual cases. Cases were purposively selected to be representative geographically, by level of development, and to highlight promising practices being implemented by WV.

II. Methodology

An initial scoping exercise informed the design of phase two. Scoping interviews with international and regional experts explored their perspectives on DRR promising practices in the region, important contributions of WV to DRR in the region, and important gaps in DRR. Thirteen scoping interviews were conducted among key stakeholders such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) regional staff, senior World Vision support office staff, regional staff and country office (CO) staff.

Countries selected for field work were Indonesia, Bangladesh and Laos. The three virtual case studies chosen were Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Mongolia (see Figure 1). Field work was conducted from November 2023 through early March 2024. Virtual case interviews were conducted in June 2024.



² Mock et al

Field Case Methodology and Selection Criteria

Sites for data collection and data collection procedures were unique in each of the three countries visited. Identifying data collection sites was determined by specific research questions that could be explored. For example, in Indonesia, sites were selected to highlight promising practices in urban settings. Additionally, cases involving field work required that COs were able to support the logistics and support needed for the field work (hiring of local consultants, provision of transportation, availability of staff to organize and participate in interviews). The World Vision International Research Team (RT), led by Dr. Nancy Mock, consultant and lead evaluator supported by WV staff, attempted to contrast sites supported by WV Area Programme (AP) investments and those that benefited from grant funding (see Table 1). In Bangladesh, sites were selected to enable the team to explore deep layering of interventions and to compare these with a neighboring district that benefited from traditional AP programming. In Laos, programming is predominantly community sponsorship, so research aimed to assess geographic variability in DRR efforts and successes among areas benefiting from community sponsorship programming. In that country, the team explored the sustainability of early recovery interventions where WV was not providing long-term support.

World Vision Area Programme (APs)

World Vision Area Programmes are comprehensive initiatives designed to enhance the well-being of children and their communities. These programmes focus on long-term development and are tailored to address the specific needs of the communities they serve. They typically involve a range of activities, including education, health, economic development, and child protection, all aimed at creating sustainable improvements in the quality of life for children and their families”

For virtual case studies, data collection included desk study of project documents and key informant interviews with WV country office staff and important government stakeholders. The analysis of these cases did not include focus group discussions with end user clients of WV activities. Thus, while some information could be gleaned about household level risk reduction outcomes from any evaluation studies (performance and impact evaluations) available to the research team (desk study evidence), only systems level outcomes (such as adoption and scaling of project models) could be determined through triangulation with government stakeholders.

Indonesia | Emergency response efforts were carried out for flash floods that impacted children and communities in villages assisted by WV Indonesia.



Data Analysis

Data were analysed using two approaches. All interviews across all three field case countries, interview types, and focus group discussion themes were uploaded for initial analysis into NVIVO 14 software. Interviews primarily consisted of full transcripts with translations, key themes, and topics. For both the field and virtual case studies the lead evaluator manually analysed all transcripts from the six case studies iteratively using NVIVO and visualizations. Information collected for this study from various sources (Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)) and documents was triangulated to reach conclusions.

The lead evaluator participated in all three field case studies. World Vision research staff participated in two of the three case studies (Indonesia and Bangladesh). In all three cases local consultants served as team members and Programme Officers, CO humanitarian team staff, AP managers and Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEAL) staff participated in in-depth interviews led by the lead evaluator. Local consultants conducted KII and FGD interviews in local languages, provided translation and note taking services. They also provided invaluable insights for the interpretation of information collected. Results were validated in the field with CO staff iteratively during the field work. In each of the three field cases, KIIs and FGDs were conducted. The interviews aimed to obtain stakeholder views on the impact of World Vision DRR programming on disaster risk reduction; identify strengths of WV DRR programming and promising practices; and identify gaps in WV DRR programming and on DRR programming in general. Table 1 illustrates the number of interviews and respondents consulted during the field work. Although sex disaggregated data is not available, FGDs were organized by sex and there were generally no major sex differences. The only major exception to this was that women in particular highlighted the importance of savings groups for their ability to withstand and recover from disasters. Six hundred individuals were interviewed during 51 FGDs and 26 KIIs. Indonesia had the largest number of FGDs (27) and KIIs (10), while Laos involved the largest number of participants in each interview type (278 FGD and 56 KII participants). This was due to the larger number of individuals who participated in focus group and key informant interviews in Laos. See Appendix 1 for copies of the semi-structured questionnaire guides.

Table 1: Disposition of Interviews and Participants in Field Case Countries

Country	Total FGDs	Total FGD Participants	Total KIIs	Total KIIs Participants	Total Participants
Bangladesh	10	109	7	17	126
Indonesia	27	127	10	13	140
Laos	14	278	9	56	334
Total (All Countries)	51	514	26	86	600

Case Study Selection Criteria

Indonesia is among the most disaster-prone countries in the region, affected by most environmental hazards including tsunamis, flooding, drought, earthquakes, volcanoes, and landslides³. This diverse country is also classified as upper-middle income and has the fourth largest population in the world.⁴ Containing more 17,000 islands, more than 56% of the country is urbanized.⁵ Indonesia was chosen as a case country because of its enormous importance in the region; its experience with urban programming and its long-term collaboration with BHA on DRR programming. The research team realized the vastness of contexts for DRR programming in the region; therefore, resource limitations required a focus on the urban context, in the districts of east Jakarta and Tangerang (see figure 2). These areas in greater Jakarta included areas covered by child sponsorship and areas funded by USAID/BHA to work on DRR activities. During the field work in November 2023, eight villages/quarters were visited in DKI Jakarta and Tangerang district.



Figure 2: Map of Indonesia Case Study Areas



Figure 3: Map of Bangladesh Case Study Areas

Bangladesh also is a country with high exposure to hazards, especially with over 60% of the population living in areas with a high risk of flooding, around than 45% of which is fluvial flooding.⁶ Other hazards include cyclones, droughts, extreme heat, fires, and earthquakes (UNDRR, 2020a). The country is currently classified as lower-middle income but is expected to be removed from the United Nations (UN) list of least developed countries by 2026.⁷ The Bangladesh case was chosen because it provides an example of layering a long-term developmental activity with a shorter term DRR programming intervention. Field work focused on the southwestern coastal areas of Bangladesh (see figure 3, including three districts in the Khulna division: the Khulna District (Dacope subdistrict), the Satkhira District (Kaliganj and Shyamnagar subdistricts), and the Bagerhat District (Rampal sub-district). Rampal sub-district benefited only from WV APs, while the other sites featured layering within and between BHA grants. A limitation of the site selection was the exclusion of Koyra subdistrict, one area targeted by a long-term development developmental activity, due to resources available to the study.

³ R. Djalante, "Review Article: A Systematic Literature Review of Research Trends and Authorships on Natural Hazards, Disasters, Risk Reduction and Climate Change in Indonesia," *Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci.* 18, no. 6 (June 27, 2018): 1785–1810, <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-18-1785-2018>; UNDRR, "Disaster Risk Reduction in The Republic of Indonesia: Status Report 2020" (Bangkok, Thailand: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 2020).

⁴ World Bank, "Overview: Indonesia," Text/HTML, World Bank, October 20, 2023, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/indonesia/overview>.

⁵ World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank, *Climate Risk Country Profile: Indonesia* (World Bank, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1596/36379>.

⁶ Jun Rentschler, Melda Salhab, and Bramka Arga Jafino, "Flood Exposure and Poverty in 188 Countries," *Nature Communications* 13, no. 1 (June 28, 2022): 3527, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-30727-4>.

⁷ World Bank, "The World Bank In Bangladesh: Overview," Text/HTML, World Bank, April 11, 2024, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/bangladesh/>



Through the Anticipatory Action initiative addressing the Dzud crisis in 16 provinces, World Vision Mongolia is delivering critical relief assistance to 5,892 low-income herder families severely impacted by Dzud. This support aims to help at-risk children and families endure the harsh winter conditions.

MONGOLIA

Laos is exposed to a range of disasters, including floods, storms and droughts.⁸ It is also a lower-middle income country and listed by the UN as a least developed country, although, similar to Bangladesh it is scheduled to graduate from least developed status in 2026.⁹ Laos was chosen because of its development status and because it has more traditional World Vision community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) programming as a component of its AP programmes. Field sites visited included districts in the provinces of Khammoune, Salavan, and Savannakhet. In each of the five districts, two villages were visited by the field team.

Each of the virtual case studies was chosen for the additional unique contexts that they represent in showcasing DRR in the region. Vanuatu is a small island nation vulnerable to volcanic eruptions, cyclones, landslides, droughts, earthquakes, and tsunamis.¹⁰ It was selected due to the high level of programming focused on social inclusion. Meanwhile, Mongolia, selected for its unique hazards and regional representation, is a landlocked country that faces extreme winter storms called Dzuds, droughts, wildfires, floods, and earthquakes.¹¹ Sri Lanka is vulnerable to cyclones, flooding, landslides, and also droughts.¹² Key elements for the selection of this country included the strong level of coordination with the national disaster management body and layering of donor funded projects with APs.

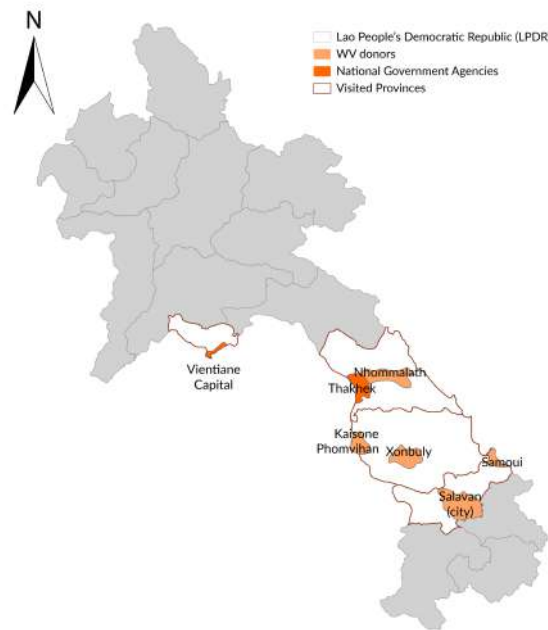


Figure 4: Map of Laos Case Study Areas

Table 2: Criteria for Selection of Field Case Studies and Key Characteristics of WV DRR Programming in Those Countries

Case	Length of WV Presence	Case Elements and Research Questions	Key donors	Type of interventions	WV Office Structure
Laos	1963	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less developed • Community sponsorship CBDRM • No large donors <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was there variability in DRR among rural communities • Did early recovery reflect Build Back Better (BBB) outcomes? No large donors <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was there variability in DRR among rural communities • Did early recovery reflect Build Back Better (BBB) outcomes? • Urban DDR • Multiple years of BHA support • BHA later with sponsorship <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of basic practice in urban settings • Is there evidence of better outcomes in grant funded versus AP supported communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) • World Food Programme (WFP) • WV Japan • WV Australia 	Community Sponsorship CBDRM	Limited staffing, relatively high turnover, community focused

⁸ UNDRR, "Disaster Risk Reduction in Lao PDR: Status Report 2019" (Bangkok, Thailand: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 2019), https://www.preventionweb.net/files/68252_682303laopdrdmstatusreport.pdf.

⁹ Ranya Sobir and Sinthavy Malavong, "A Policy Note on LDC Graduation for Lao PDR" (United Nations Development Programme), accessed August 22, 2024, <https://www.undp.org/laopdr/publications/lcd-graduation-lao-pdr>.

¹⁰ UNDRR, "Disaster Risk Reduction in the Republic of Vanuatu: Status Report 2022" (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific, 2022), <https://www.undrr.org/media/83389/download?startDownload=20240823>.

¹¹ UNDRR, "Disaster Risk Reduction in Mongolia: Status Report 2019" (Bangkok, Thailand: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 2019), https://www.preventionweb.net/files/68255_682305mongoliadmstatusreport.pdf.

¹² UNDRR, "Disaster Risk Reduction in Sri Lanka: Status Report 2019" (Bangkok, Thailand: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 2019), https://www.unisdr.org/files/68230_10srilankadmstatusreport.pdf.

Case	Length of WV Presence	Case Elements and Research Questions	Key donors	Type of interventions	WV Office Structure
Indonesia	1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban DRR • Multiple years of BHA support • BHA layer with sponsorship <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of best practice in urban settings • Is there evidence of better outcomes in grant funded versus AP supported communities <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of basic practice in urban settings • Is there evidence of better outcomes in grant funded versus AP supported communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USAID/BHA • Australia • ECHO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHA DRR • Sponsorship CBDRM 	High level staffing in DRR, stable staffing structure
Bangladesh	1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA) layered with DRR and sponsorship <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did layering result in better outcomes than AP programme alone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USAID/BHA • Australia • ECHO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHA RFSA • Sponsorship CBDRM • BHA DRR 	High level staffing at all levels, including programme/office strategy

Table 3: Criteria for Selection of Virtual Case Studies and Key Characteristics of WV DRR Programming in Those Countries

Case	Length of WV Presence	Case Elements	Key donors	Type of interventions	WV Office Structure
Vanuatu	Early 1980s	Small Island nation, social inclusion, grant programming only	Australia, New Zealand, USAID/BHA	Gender equality disability and social inclusion (GEDSI), CBDRM, livelihoods, Emergency Response and Recovery	Relatively lean, strong presence of GEDSI committed staff
Mongolia	1993	Winter and drought hazards (Dzuds), national level impacts, regional representations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USAID/BHA • Australia • ECHO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHA RFSA • Sponsorship CBDRM • BHA DRR 	High level staffing at all levels, including programme/office strategy
Sri Lanka	1977	Strong engagement with national center for disaster management; layering of donor with APs	USAID/BHA, ECHO, Startfund, Australia, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Germany	Child Centered DRR (CC-DRR), CBDRM, National-subnational DRR institutional support, safe schools, Anticipatory Action, Public-Private Partnerships	Strong staffing



Lao PDR | World Vision has implemented long-term sustainable solutions through integrated nutrition, livelihoods, climate change adaptation, and resilience programmes to address food security issues.

III. Summary of Findings Across All Six Cases

Putting the Findings in the Context of Progress in the Region on the Sendai Framework:

A recent evaluation of progress on the Sendai Framework illustrates that Asia and the Pacific region have made some progress but remain behind in all four of the priority areas identified in the framework. This includes in understanding disaster risk, strengthening DRR governance, investing in DRR for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for response and building back better. WV is well placed to strategically address some of the key gaps. For example, in the areas of early warning, this study suggests that WV work at the community level can be leveraged to build more comprehensive early warning and risk assessment information systems at the local level. WV is especially well placed to work on disaster risk governance at the district and lower levels of institutions (including community level) to address disaster risk. Disaster risk financing at the local level also is a large gap identified where WV has capacity and assets (Vision Fund and private funds) to leverage. WV also has developed citizen voice and action (CVA) as a possible tool to improve local financing of DRR. WV can additionally address the need to better incorporate BBB into DRR plans and into its indicator framework; that is including recovery indicators that take in to account the quality of infrastructure.

Table 4: Findings in Relation to Progress on the Sendai Framework¹⁴

Sendai Priorities	Findings	Implications for WV
Understanding disaster risk	Mixed results: not multi-hazard; fragmented	Emphasis on comprehensive risk assessments and early warning at community level; capacity building efforts on disaster risk analysis for local authorities; integration into disaster risk analysis into school curriculum-safe school efforts
Strengthening DRR governance	Advancements: esp. national level; less so at local level; gaps in social inclusion	Continue to focus on sub-national capacity building; especially work on the linkage of community to subnational and national levels; continue to promote best practice in social inclusion; pilot these approaches for national Disaster Risk Management (DRM)/DRR agencies
Investing in DRR for resilience	Mixed: some international facilities; lack of local level DRR financing	Focus on scalable solutions to local level financing gaps: capacity building local authorities and CVA for local authority accountability
Enhancing disaster preparedness for response and to build back better	Mixed: better updated broadcasting; norm still is return to normal; lack indicators for recovery and build back better	Incorporate BBB into community planning documents; develop indicators for household (HH) and community monitoring and pilot monitoring strategies in collaboration with disaster management agencies.

¹³ UNDRR, "The Report of the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030" (Geneva, Switzerland: UNDRR, 2023).

¹⁴ UNDRR.

IV. Field Case Study Findings

Overview

Evidence from field case studies in Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Laos indicated that WV DRR programming has built disaster preparedness capacity at the community level to most salient hazards faced by communities. In most cases these were flooding and storms. In the Indonesian urban setting, fire was also prioritized by communities as a disaster risk. In rural areas, crop and animal diseases were salient threats, though these have received less attention by project management. CBDRM, which was implemented in each country as a core project model, appears to be a promising practice.

Additional key findings, conclusions and results seen across the three studies are outlined below.

Table 4: Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations from Field Case Studies

Findings	Conclusions	Recommendation(s)
Evidence from field case studies in Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Laos indicated that WV DRR programming improved disaster preparedness capacity. In most cases this was flooding and storms. In the Indonesian urban setting, fire was also prioritized by communities as a disaster risk. In rural areas, crop and animal diseases were salient threats, though these have received less attention by project management. CBDRM as a core project model implemented in all three cases.	WV DRR programming has built disaster preparedness capacity at the community level to most salient hazards faced by communities.	Continued Investment in DRR and CBDRM programming to further reduce risk and build preparedness.
Even where investments in DRR were substantial, the inability of local governments to access funds for DRR activities is a major issue (with the potential exception of the Nobo Jatra RFSA in Bangladesh, which requires more in-depth look at the issue).	In all cases, lack of availability of funding for DRR at the district and lower levels threatens sustainability to varying degrees.	DRR community level programming should make an effort to build local government capacity to advocate and apply for funding.
DRR efforts remain highly projectized. Although there are efforts to sequence and layer some projects in Bangladesh.	Efforts are disjointed and results are fragmented.	DRR in all three countries could benefit from a broader vision and more targeted strategy to reduce disaster risk.
Currently, early warning/early action/community disaster risk reduction plans are organized around single hazards and not often comprehensive around risk reduction planning (multi-hazard and comprehensive risk reduction planning).	Early warning/early action/community disaster risk reduction plans at the community level needs considerable improvement.	DRR programme design should consider all-hazards and other existing plans, even when planning efforts address individual threats.
Training received as part of DRR programming was widely appreciated by WV clients; it was viewed as very empowering. However, in most cases, training was viewed to be one-off in nature with insufficient follow-up. Even in cases where more substantial investment was made, for example in safe school initiatives, teachers and administrators felt that follow up and refresher training was necessary. In all cases, clients preferred simulation type training to more theoretical approaches. DRR projects, however, are training oriented, as training outputs are easy to count. Most trainings are not a part of a Theory of Change and therefore there is little coherence of training as part of a capacity development strategy.	DRR trainings were seen as beneficial but would benefit from greater follow-up and strategic implementation following a Theory of Change.	DRR programmes should use a Theory of Change to guide development of training programmes to ensure their coherence, with additional considerations for implementing follow-ups to ensure knowledge is sustained.
Key informants from all three case studies indicated the need for DRR infrastructure, be it for evacuation centers, roads, water, fire hydrants, levies/berms and irrigation schemes. End user clients prioritized the importance of infrastructure for risk reduction.	Infrastructure was an important need for risk reduction across the board.	Infrastructure improvements should continue to be targeted as a part of DRR programmes.
In the Asia Pacific region, cell phone penetration is high, especially in urban areas.	High cell phone penetration could be used by WV to support DRR programming.	Information technology should be leveraged for early warning systems (EWS) and DRR communication strategies in many cases.

Findings	Conclusions	Recommendation(s)
<p>DRR engagement has raised the status of youth participating in WV programme sites and has empowered them in this way, often leading to unanticipated changes in perceptions of self-efficacy and leadership potential. However, the Laos case shows that youth programming can be challenged by migratory patterns of youth. Urban youth programming requires a different approach than rural youth programming. In urban contexts, youth networks are often already in place and can be leveraged for DRR work. In rural areas, youth groups may need to be created or catalyzed and sustained.</p>	<p>Youth programming for DRR is a very promising area because youth can be particularly helpful in mobilizing/ assisting in evacuations, client education, and visioning DRR needs. However, special considerations are needed for individual contexts.</p>	<p>WV should continue to integrate youth programming into DRR approaches, while considering the need for specialized approaches addressing specific contexts (i.e. areas with high migration rates and rural/urban contexts)</p>
<p>In Bangladesh and Indonesia, creation of savings groups, farmers groups, youth groups and local committees resulted in spin off development of social capital. This manifests itself in reciprocal sharing of knowledge, financial support and assets.</p>	<p>WV works in the two of the three countries built social capital. (Laos social capital development was less apparent, potentially due to study methodology in this country)</p>	<p>DRR programming should be enhanced through deliberate efforts to build social capital, which is an area of comparative advantage for World Vision.</p>



INDONESIA

Description of Country Office DRR Programmes:

The World Vision Indonesia office is formally localized as Wahana Visi Indonesia. World Vision has been present in Indonesia since 1968 and has undertaken numerous development and humanitarian response programmes. WV has a large sponsorship programme in Indonesia with approximately 34 APs in 11 provinces. BHA has provided grant funded DRR programming for four project cycles, beginning in 2015. WV also has responded to several humanitarian emergencies in Indonesia, including the Asian Tsunami.

First, it is important to distinguish the two primary types of WV activities in the project sites. In Jakarta City, WV has APs, with long histories of support to communities, community-based disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response. In addition, WV conducts activities at the institutional and community level to strengthen DRR with USAID/BHA funding. These activities include institutional (schools, the BPBD-provincial/district disaster management agency), community training activities, support of livelihood development in selected communities, and network building among the faith-based, youth and private sector communities. The BHA activities are operational in districts with APs (Jakarta City) and where there are no APs (Tangerang), which allowed the research team to contrast findings in the two areas. Though deliberate layering at the AP level was not a part of the BHA project strategy, district level training and other BHA sponsored activities could reinforce/enhance work being done at the local governmental officials level by youth, women, school staff or other community members. However, the team found that layering of BHA interventions to ensure collaboration of AP staff and communities did not systematically occur. This compromised the ability of the team to assess the effects of layering.

Impacts on DRR:

Stakeholder analysis triangulated around the impact of WV DRR programming on community disaster preparedness, particularly as it pertains to urban flooding. Communities expressed improved evacuation because of early warning and the availability of evacuation centers together with a better understanding of risk. They noted that disaster losses also had been reduced, including human mortality and

loss of assets. In AP communities, DRR impacts were more narrowly focused on flood risk and communities typically expressed the need for improved early warning and evacuation options. While there was awareness of other risks, these were not systematically addressed by DRR training and community members frequently expressed interest in additional training to improve their understanding of disaster risk.

Stakeholders pointed to training, especially simulations, as important to the success of DRR efforts. Training was more intensive in BHA project areas, such that community members felt empowered to embrace shocks and risks. As summarized by one respondent in Cililitan Village, “we can be independent with the knowledge provided by World Vision”. However, the training was also viewed to be very and sometimes too tactical in nature. Training “was formed like a logistics section” (Cililitan community member).

Community members and institutions trained by WV through BHA funding also expressed concern about the coverage and sustainability of training. For example, respondents universally identified the need for follow-up and refresher training as well as on-going training to address staff turnover. Many noted the low coverage of the programme as well and advocated for their peers to have access to these resources.

Given that the BHA project has maintained its geographic focus over time, both AP+BHA and BHA only area community residents expressed that WV long term presence was one of the reasons for the success of DRR efforts. In these communities WV had earned the trust of communities and usually local government authorities (though local staff turnover was a barrier). In AP communities, WV also had built a large network of volunteers in support of DRR and community development. Because of AP budget flexibility, that is, up to 20% of the budget could be used to respond to emergencies, AP managers could pivot to provide humanitarian assistance in the event of a shock. This value addition of AP programming enabled community members to feel both empowered as well assured that a safety net was available when shocks occurred. Availability of these resources also empowered community volunteers: they felt they had the capacity to make a difference.

Government KII's stressed the importance of WV's contributions to building the penta helix networks that are necessary to catalyze resources for DRR in this vast and urbanizing country. The penta helix represents the categories of stakeholders that needed to be engaged in DRR work. These include government, academia, private sector, community and media. Mentions were made of the importance of the Humanitarian Forum Indonesia (HFI), a faith-based network of organisations involved in DRR and especially response. WV developed training materials and offered religious leaders training in psychosocial interventions. These activities resulted in increased outreach and volunteerism among religious leaders who attributed their work in the recent disaster response to the training they received in psychosocial support. The HFI was identified as a unique contribution of WV, though the COs contribution to several other networks also was viewed as important by stakeholders such as the DRR forums and private sector network focused on safety in the workplace.

Through triangulation of evidence, youth programming was highlighted as a promising practice. Both youth groups interviewed as well as other stakeholder perceptions of WV youth programming supported the conclusion that WV's youth programming also contributed to reduced disaster risk. Youth clubs served as existing forums for the development of youth DRR networks. Youth were involved in evacuation activities, preparedness activities, and some youth involved in DRR programming rose to international prominence in regional competitions. WV impact on youth leadership for DRR is an important approach. Reinforcing youth networks for DRR also promotes social capital development among youth. This was another aspect of youth programming that seemed to have an indirect effect on DRR.

Livelihood strengthening activities/financial inclusion also contributed to DRR. The integration of livelihood/financial inclusion was a deliberate component of recent cycles of BHA DRR projects. In other AP areas, these integrated elements were not included. The integration of livelihood/financial inclusion appeared to be particularly important to disaster risk reduction. Interviews with women and men's groups who received livelihood interventions (through grants) and/or had membership in savings groups were far more empowered to adopt preparedness and mitigation behaviors than community members in APs that did not benefit from this type of layering/integration. WV's work in this area was identified by multiple stakeholders as a game changer, providing both material and psychological sources of resilience. For example, savings groups were able to loan members money to respond and recover from disasters, including funding to repair homes or replace equipment like sewing machines. In some cases, members felt that savings would eventually enable them to move out of flood prone areas. FGDs shared that they were better able to withstand and recover from shocks because of their improved economic situation.

WV's partnership with SAHARA, a private company that built a network of women vendors, supporting them with stalls and inventory, was an innovative practice. WV partnered with SAHARA to offer WV clients access to a private sector network that would provide them with stalls and a mechanism for providing commodities for them to sell as well as creation and training of savings groups. The concept was an interesting one and relevant to the urban setting. However, the field work found that this concept had not yet been successfully operationalized. Local women vendors/participants identified issues (i.e. the inability of SAHARA to supply the vendors consistently with price competitive inventory). These types of partnerships, however, can lead to sustainable and scalable livelihood support in the urban context.

WV supports the regional implementation of the nationwide Destana Village model/PRBBK, which has been a national programme since 2012. The idea of the Destana is to build resilient villages/sub districts that can manage disasters and reduce disaster risk. They are being legislated and funded through provincial level legislation. Common components include disaster risk reduction and disaster management committees, public education and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in community development initiatives. WV has worked with DKI Jakarta and Tangerang on this initiative, including the development of some community-oriented protocols for this work. Because this is a Government of Indonesia initiative, it has the potential to lead to scalable and sustainable community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM). The Destana initiative is important, a shared interest of WV and the Government of Indonesia and a key to reducing disaster risk. While systematic evaluations of the initiative were not identified by the evaluation team, donor interest is high, and work is needed to realize a scalable high impact approach.¹⁵ This is an area of great potential for WV collaboration given its emphasis and expertise in CBDRM.

Indonesia | Andini, a member of WV Indonesia's Children Board, shared her insights on addressing children's issues in her district

¹⁵ Rehia K. I. Barus et al., "Communication Barriers in Disaster Resilient Villages," in Proceedings of the World Conference on Governance and Social Sciences (WCGSS 2023), ed. Abdul Razaq Cangara, Ahmad Ismail, and Muhammad Chaeroel Ansar, vol. 843, Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research (Paris: Atlantis Press SARL, 2024), 14–19, https://doi.org/10.2991/978-2-38476-236-1_3.



Gaps in programming:

One of the most important gaps identified through the research was the unavailability of funding to implement DRR activities at the local government level and the local institutional level (for example, schools). While disaster management plans had been developed with WV funding, community and institutional plans had not been consistently funded outside of WV project funding, a critical step in the results chain from interventions to disaster risk reduction outcomes. At the sub-district and village level, limited understanding existed among local authorities and community members about the availability of funding and where to source the required resources. This was true even when funding was legislated for the local level.

Another gap was in the overall level of grant funding for DRR activities available to the CO. Similarly, the number of activities in relation to DRR activity funding was quite high, leading to the feeling among project staff that they were spread too thin. DRR funding from humanitarian funding streams is very limited and time frames are short. The project awards often called for numerous activities. Staff and clients felt that the support provided was very valuable, but more was needed to ensure impact and sustainability; that is, programme intensity of various interventions was low, and coverage also was limited. This situation often led to attenuated impacts on the reduction of disaster risk. This sentiment was consistently echoed among key stakeholders.

For example, the USAID/BHA-funded SIGAP and SINERGI projects supported safe school activities among others. Both school staff and students greatly appreciated the training activities provided by the project. However, they also indicated that follow-up was not forthcoming and that more training was needed, especially some type of continuous training to address the high level of turnover among teachers and administrators (in the range of 20% annually). In schools visited, funding for risk reduction plans was not consistently available. Public schools especially did not have funds to implement plans. Schools that benefited from private funding, such as schools for disabled children were able to mobilize funding for risk reduction measures.

Private sector training was appreciated among private sector partners consulted. The emphasis of these training sessions was on creating safe workplaces. However, network development and

follow up of private sector workplace risk reduction activities was not observable. There were a few champions among the private sector network partners who had implemented safety plans and training within their organisations, but this was only a handful (around 4 of 5) among the approximately 70 members of the private sector safety/ DRR network. FGD participants identified the need for government agencies to endorse the private sector network and sponsor/convene the network as a strategy to improve participation.

Many of the project activities were viewed as important but were not sufficiently funded and followed up over time to lead to sustainable and scalable impacts on DRR. In fact, all stakeholders noted the importance of follow-up and continuous training to ensure that DRR efforts could realistically reduce disaster risk.

Similarly, across the board, WV clients indicated that training was valuable but that mentoring, continued support, including institutional mentoring is needed in the face of institutional changes and personnel turn over. This was a common theme across stakeholders consulted. This finding is a general finding across the three field case studies. The problem is a generic one to DRR projects funded through the humanitarian donor funding stream. This will be discussed later in the analysis.

Research from the Anticipatory Action Pilot was triangulated with client responses to identify the need for more granular early warning information¹⁶ and for more comprehensive information systems.

The research team noted a lack of coordination between development and humanitarian activities within the WV office. While Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA) activities were coordinated in specific APs covered by donor programmes, other interactions with development activities within WV's portfolio were not systematically occurring. According to staff interviews, the WV office does not hold regular or special programmatic meetings that discuss programme learning across the portfolio. One WV staff member reported that "actually, disaster management indicators do not sit in the goal of our strategy, because WV International (WVI) as part of World Vision has the main business on child well-being. So, the top strategy objectives stated in our strategy are most related with the direct impact of the children." The lack of integration of DRR through regular CO-wide learning and planning limits the impacts of DRR related activities.

Indonesia | The 2024 WV Indonesia National Children's Meeting was a vibrant event, bringing together child representatives from assisted areas.



¹⁶ Aktion Deutschland Hilft and Wahana Visi, "Anticipatory Action for Disaster Management: Feasibility Study Report,," 2023.

Key Takeaways:

- The majority of the evidence from the Indonesia case study supports the finding that WV has achieved risk reduction due to its success in strengthening local preparedness for flood disasters in the urban context. Results were particularly striking when DRR preparedness efforts were layered and integrated with savings groups/livelihood improvement strategies.
- Wahini Visi is a potential localization model for WV: It is a local organisation with a strong and stable staffing structure and a valued partner of government and other stakeholders.
- The Indonesia case illustrates the complexity of programming in urban contexts where CBDRM as a component of sponsorship programmes may not be sufficient to achieve DRR. Stakeholder networks and continuous engagement with local government officials is required.

- WV has facilitated/catalyzed important networks that are critical to preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. These include faith-based networks, regional DRR forums, private sector networks and youth networks, though more focus on leadership contributions to some of these (faith based and youth), might be advisable for improved impact.
- WV can develop and refine a resilient village model as part of the government of Indonesia's Destana initiative with the government disaster management agency. This is a strategic opportunity for impact, sustainability and scalability.
- Indonesia's urban district and sub-district management is characterized by a high degree of turnover of local officials, which requires constant engagement (and re-education) with local government.

Summary:

WV in Indonesia is a well-respected leader in DRR programming and a trusted partner of the government and community. WV has piloted numerous promising initiatives to reduce disaster risk. However, funding is insufficient to bring these to scalable and sustainable initiatives. Future funding could be more focused on bringing some of these initiatives to maturity, such as Destana, HFI and youth programming. WV also can work to strengthen institutional training/capacity building capabilities within academia, national/provincial disaster management entities or perhaps within WV itself to provide continuous production and supervision of DRR capacity support.



BANGLADESH

Description of Country Office DRR Programmes:

The Bangladesh office also has a long history of providing development and humanitarian assistance. WV has a presence in 35 districts where it also has offices and staff. Of all countries, Bangladesh has a portfolio with the largest amount of DRR investment, though most of this investment is in the southwestern coastal area where the 87 million USD (USAID/BHA), seven-year Nobo Jatra project was targeted (highly vulnerable to flooding). The project operated within the Satkhira district in two sub-districts (Koyra and Dacope), in the Khulna district and in two subdistricts (Shyamnagar and Kaliganj) within the Satkhira district. Several other DRR related projects were/ are being implemented in the country, including those funded by ECHO, Germany, Australia and USAID. Senior office staff of Nobo Jatra (NJ) worked for WV for decades, often across the development and humanitarian portfolios. Bangladesh was selected as a case study because it highlights the unique experience of layering and sequencing donor activities in a geographic area supported by a large Resilience Food Security Activity (NJ) funded by USAID/BHA. Previous AP support and a more recent BHA recovery activity are layered in some of the project areas. NJ was a multi-sectoral development programme that built market access, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and climate informed DRR around an Ultra Poor Graduation Model (UPG). The activity, initially a five-year, 74-million-dollar activity, was funded to continue another two years to facilitate sustainability. A recent learning brief¹⁷ examined the impacts of layering programme components, which demonstrated the criticality of livelihood activities for reducing disaster risk. Additionally, the western coastal area was struck by Cyclone Amphan in 2020 and Bangladesh was affected by COVID-19. BHA worked with WV to develop layered activities through a new project. The 2.0 million dollar two-year Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction in Vulnerable and Disaster-Prone Zones in Bangladesh (SDRR) enabled WV to enhance DRR oriented activities in NJ areas. The SDRR activities included restoration of evacuation centers and routes; WASH and road infrastructure; recovery and strengthening of livelihoods; and reinforcing community management of risks. In addition, the WV Bangladesh portfolio includes several other donor-funded projects and Community Engagement and Sponsorship Programme (CESP) activities, though these were not layered in NJ areas.

Impacts on DRR:

Nobo Jatra areas included in the case study reflected both household and systems level risk reduction. Layering on Nobo Jatra areas of SDRR DRR oriented programming was key to success. SDRR was able to focus on recovery of livelihoods in areas affected by Amphan and was also able to reinforce CBDRM capacities and financial inclusion through savings groups. During focus group discussions with NJ participants, a reduction in disaster losses was described. Community members felt effectively supported by WV throughout the disaster cycle including preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and mitigation. In areas where communities benefited from the UPG model and additional recovery assistance, households projected a sense of empowerment vis a vis risk management. For example, some savings group members envisioned saving to move to less risky settings. Members used savings for vulnerability reduction of their homes (hardening household structures and protecting assets), but also improved education for their children and made investments in livelihood assets. Layering within Nobo Jatra and between Nobo Jatra and other BHA interventions, especially SDRR, provided households with self-confidence.

A particularly striking aspect of the field visits in Nobo Jatra project areas was the visit to Dacope where representatives of the youth group network provided evidence of the effectiveness of youth in preparation, response, recovery and mitigation activities. The team was able to triangulate evidence with disaster risk reduction committee members and residents. Youth gained status in the community, a sense of empowerment and acquired leadership skills.

An unexpected finding was the level of social capital that the youth group members developed. Members recounted significant social change related to social capital. For example, members funded the start-up of a pharmacy by one of their members; the same pharmacy served the community during disaster events. Others loaned money to their peers to fund other livelihood start-ups. Members developed leadership skills because of their participation in the group. Several members expressed their intent to participate in local politics and one member had already risen to national level political engagement.

¹⁷ Vidya Diwakar et al., "Evidence Brief: Sustaining Escapes out of Ultra-Poverty: Layered Interventions in Coastal Bangladesh" (Chronic Poverty Advisory Network and BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, July 2022).

Systems level changes also were noted at the district and sub-district levels, where comprehensive risk reduction plans were produced and updated. Committees had well organized approaches to responding to disaster events and developing visions for reducing future risk through risk reduction plans.

However, a recurring theme throughout the case studies reappeared in Bangladesh where sub-district and community level committees and communities reported sparse and nearly the absence of financial support to implement locally developed DRR plans. Communities consulted indicated that any resources provided at the local level were largely dedicated to disaster response as opposed to risk reduction activities aimed to reduce exposure and vulnerability to hazards. Even in these well supported areas, the issue of local financing for risk reduction work remained a challenge. These findings somewhat contradict the findings of the Nobo Jatra Project Performance and Impact Evaluation, which found that some participants felt that sub-national capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters improved, resulting in greater ability to create, fund and implement DRR plans.¹⁸ This variability could be ascribed to different groups and perceptions among interviewees, or the fact that not all NJ districts were included in this study. This could mean that there is variability among improvements as both of these findings are the result of qualitative inquiry.

On the other hand, findings from Rampal, which only benefited from AP and Private Non-sponsorship (PNS) funding showed more modest impacts on DRR. While there was evidence that preparedness efforts did lead to improved evacuation, reduced disaster losses, and better access to government safety net programmes, the presence of WV in the AP was not sufficient to support and reinforce government DRR efforts. Community members expressed the need for more training and funding to better address risk. For example, the government had distributed solar panels to enable the communities to have power during disaster events. Yet, community members were not sufficiently trained to utilize the panels. According to one of the disaster risk reduction committee members, “we got solar panels from the government but as we don’t know how to use them properly, they have remained unused”. In some areas of Rampal, communities were also supported to become eco-villages. These efforts were relatively new, so impact and sustainability of these efforts could not be assessed by the field team.

Again, reduced community disaster losses were identified as an important contribution of WV DRR programming in both grant and sponsorship areas. Early warning and the ability to evacuate and protect assets was identified as key. Nobo Jatra provided considerable livelihood support to households along with financial inclusion through savings groups. In these same areas, local level and union level disaster risk reduction committees were reinforced (Union Parishad levels were legally mandated, but they were animated by WV support as per participants). Although committees were no longer supported financially by WV assistance, committee members were proud to report that their vibrant participation had sustained after WV assistance ended and they circulated an updated risk reduction plan that was completed after WV assistance ended.

Gaps in Programming:

A recurring theme throughout the case studies reappeared in Bangladesh where Union Parishad and community level committees and communities reported sparse support and nearly the absence of financial support to implement locally developed DRR plans. Given the contradictory conclusion of the NJ Performance and Impact evaluation, it remains unclear as to the level of support available among communities.¹⁹ Despite these conflicting viewpoints, most communities indicated that any resources provided to the local level were largely provided for response as opposed to risk reduction activities aimed to reduce exposure and vulnerability to hazards.

In the case of Bangladesh, as was common elsewhere, the focus of DRR work was on preparedness for flood/cyclones and most risk reduction was related to these risks. There was some concern, especially among youth groups, that the work they were doing was not well coordinated with the national Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP). While WV has an MOU with the CPP programme, it might be useful to further explore the operational linkages between CPP and CBDRM work at the subnational and community levels.

While livelihood interventions were an important aspect of reducing disaster risk, women respondents indicated that lack of transportation hindered their ability to maximize returns on their/WV livelihood investments. Women indicated that they were obliged to rely on middlemen to take their products to market. Clients recommended that increased emphasis is needed on measures to effectively link women to end markets.

Bangladesh | World Vision and partner distribute dry food support for 1500 Cyclone Remal affected families.



Key Takeaways:

- This case provides an excellent example of country portfolio management, where investments were sequenced, layered and integrated to achieve DRR. A large RFSA that layered investment to achieve vulnerability reduction and resilience made great strides to build resilience. Additional layering of risk reduction and recovery in project areas affected by shocks resulted in early recovery work that built back better.
- Portfolio management can be strengthened by harvesting lessons learned from WV’s long history of implementing area-based programming. Few donor project documents referred to lessons learned or WV experience in these APs.
- Programme exposure intensity along with long term sustained

¹⁸ Ariel BenYishay et al., “Nobo Jatra Project Performance and Impact Evaluation: Endline Evaluation of Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance Resilience Food Security Activity in Bangladesh: Volume I - Report” (Pulte Institute for Global Development, Aiddata, and Mathematica, October 2023).

¹⁹ BenYishay et al.

presence is a key determinant of sustainable change though it is insufficient by itself to achieve sustainable change in risk reduction if the last mile of recurrent financing to local government does not occur.

- This case highlighted promising practices in youth programming, including leadership and social capital formation both of which will strengthen and sustain risk reduction efforts. Youth engagement in disaster risk reduction was viewed by all stakeholders as a vital aspect of risk reduction.
- The Country Programme Officer has worked across the relief, development and peace building nexus, this facilitated stronger and more cross-sectoral DRR strategies and programmes in the CO.

Summary:

The Bangladesh CO has achieved focused portfolio management to reduce disaster risk. Multi-sectoral investments that leveraged social capital and buttressed inclusive livelihood strengthening strategies were a unique hallmark of this case. On one hand, vulnerability was reduced and on the other, absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities were enhanced to reduce disaster risk. Programme intensity was adequate to achieve impact in the areas served by NJ. Nono Jatra II, not explored in this analysis, focused on the sustainability of NJ outcomes. Sustainability is always a concern of these high investment projects and hopefully, future research will look at medium- and long-term sustainability of effects.

In areas supported by AP programming/PNS, DRR was more modest due to more attenuated resource investment. In these areas DRR was primarily confined to storm/flood preparedness and linkage to a modest safety net program that did not appear to be shock responsive (did not increase coverage or transfers when shocks occurred).

LAOS

Description of Country Office DRR Programmes:

The Laos CO has an unusual portfolio. Rather than individual sponsorship, the Laos office, in response to demands of the Government of Laos (GoL) has only community sponsorship rather than individual child sponsorship programming. This means that the budgets are allocated to community activities rather than individual children. The Laos CO also targets the poor and very remote areas of the country that are often difficult to access seasonally and sparsely populated. Another unique feature of the Laos programme is that external support is limited and is largely response oriented. Aside from the CBDRM project model and early recovery activities, there is little financial support for DRR activities. In some sense, this CO reflects a situation where DRR to date relies heavily on WV internal financing.

It is important to note that disaster management law and organisational structures have been defined legally by the GoL. However, governance structures are relatively new and are not well funded or resourced by government or donors. There is great enthusiasm by the GoL for World Vision's work and support. Aside from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, World Vision is viewed as a major contributor to DRR in Laos. Government was very welcoming and solicitous of World Vision support.

Laos also is among the poorest of the countries included in this study. As a landlocked country in the Mekong Delta and having suffered from decades of economic growth restrictive policies, Laos suffers from enormous youth and brain drain. The country is surrounded by economic tigers in the region, where borders are both fluid and proximate to poor areas of the country. This results in foreign industrial presence of these countries in Laos as well as high levels of labor migration among Laotian youth. In addition, Laotian communities are often at the mercy of foreign companies who create risk through water resources management in support of their industries. Community members also may choose livelihood activities that create immediate income opportunities (for example, cassava), which are in high demand

in neighboring countries, but which are a threat to natural resources management (Cassava depletes soil fertility).

Areas visited are predominantly community sponsorship areas, though in Savannakhet, the team visited areas where WV undertook early recovery activities through funding provided by WFP. All areas were remote, with varying access to telecommunications and road access.

Key Impacts:

Findings across the geographical areas visited were similar, except for areas in Savannakhet, where WV carried out recovery assistance. In all other areas visited, evacuation protocols had improved leading to reduced disaster losses, though it was not always easily attributable to World Vision interventions. In addition, communities had concerns about the quality and accessibility of evacuation facilities and supplies. Some variability existed where road, levy and irrigation infrastructure remained a great concern of community members.

World Vision was viewed as an invaluable community partner, especially for its work to improve agricultural productivity and food security. Agricultural interventions, particularly vegetable gardens, were appreciated greatly by community members, especially women. The produce was assessed to contribute to both household diet and income. Vegetable gardening was new to communities and was identified as a great value add that reduced disaster vulnerability. This also was an agricultural activity that was managed by and benefited women.

By far, livelihood support activities were the most valued contribution of World Vision along with WASH and relief assistance.

Gaps in Programming:

The team repeatedly heard the challenges that communities faced in ensuring plant and animal health. In fact, in project areas these were



the main concerns of community members. Animals were among the main assets owned by families and families noted exceptional crop losses due to pests, disease and flooding damage.

For the Laotian communities served by WV, preparedness gaps are largely due to the modest funding available through the community sponsorship programmes. Early warning in these areas that do not have reliable cell phone coverage; adequate evacuation modes of transport; routes and shelters; and supplies for evacuation centers were all mentioned by clients as areas needing improvement. Government services also were noted to be limited by communities and the research team.

In these remote areas, there was little evidence of access to basic services. Local service providers were either not present or did not have supplies needed to support human, plant, environmental or animal health. This meant that World Vision livelihood interventions were threatened by crop and animal losses. CBDRM efforts need to be planned in a programming context that addresses basic services availability.

The research team made observations on other aspects of the effectiveness and viability of livelihood strategies. Given the technical needs for livelihood programming and the weakness of extension programmes in the country, WV may need to strengthen its technical support by strengthening connectivity with local university expertise. In fact, the two local consultants were both university professors and their insights into livelihood programming limitations were invaluable contributions to this study.

Key Takeaways:

- The Government of Laos is highly appreciative of WV and its efforts in the country. It also is very committed to DRR, has adopted national policies and laws and is very welcoming of support to implement its DRR programming.
- As in the other cases, there is ample evidence that WV disaster risk reduction capacity development work resulted in reduced disaster risk through better preparedness and WV emergency intervention support.
- The Laos CO targets remote and high need areas that are not easy to access and do not have many other development partners.
- CBDRM is prioritized by both WV and communities in flood prone areas. The impact of disasters on livelihoods and assets is still very high in programme areas. Early warning systems (EWS) remain an area for improvement.
- Livelihood interventions are threatened by lack of health and agricultural services extension services/local service providers.
- Youth programming is difficult because of the economic pull of countries surrounding Laos leading to high levels of youth migration.
- One-off recovery activities implemented by WV with WFP support, though intended to Build Back Better (BBB), resulted at times in the creation of infrastructure that could not be maintained by communities. This questions the wisdom of working in areas without long term presence of WV technical staff.
- Given the challenges to local livelihoods in WV APs, the CO should develop a deeper relationship with local university expertise to support the technical improvement of livelihood strategies.
- EWS were viewed to be inadequate by local communities in terms of timing and the quality of messages.

Summary:

WV remains a valuable partner to the Government of Laos and to communities where WV works. The Government has laws in place for disaster management but very limited resources to implement disaster risk reduction programmes. WV has a unique opportunity to take on a greater role if it can strengthen its staff resources and secure external funding. Work at the district and community level of the DRR system also needs considerable strengthening. CBDRM work, especially WV's work to strengthen livelihoods, is threatened by the unavailability of health, agricultural and veterinary extension services.

Lao PDR | People, including children were moved to stay in a safe place.



Sri Lanka | Natural Farming Project Koica

V. Virtual Case Study Findings

Each of the individual virtual case studies serve to provide additional evidence to the field case studies. Unique features of the programming in these case studies include social inclusion in Vanuatu, coordination with the government in Mongolia, and a child centered approach in Sri Lanka. Additionally, two out of three case studies featured geographic layering of DRR programmes. Although, in Vanuatu it was unclear whether strategic approaches were taken to integrate the programmes at the community and household levels. Table 5 categorizes the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the unique approaches taken in these countries.

Table 5. Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations from the Virtual Case Studies

Findings	Conclusions	Recommendation(s)
In Vanuatu, WV CO programming dedicated to social inclusion, specifically disability inclusion, in disaster preparedness and response led to the integration of disability questions in the national census, development of a national registry for people with disabilities, improved capacity of key stakeholders to address their needs, and engagement with communities to develop products for people with disabilities.	WV programming dedicated to social inclusion in disaster preparedness and response can impact and improve inclusion in national policies and programmes for disaster preparedness and response.	WV should seek to implement and/or expand similar social inclusion programming in other COs as well.
All three cases demonstrated featured collaboration with government disaster coordinating bodies. In Mongolia, WV developed a community disaster risk assessment methodology and a disaster risk communication package which have been used by the national emergency management agency and scaled up to the national level.	Collaboration between WV DRR programming and national disaster agencies can lead to widespread usage of tools and assessments.	This is a major achievement and should be documented as a case study for more wide distribution among WV offices in the region (and possibly globally).
In Sri Lanka, WV collaborated with UNICEF to implement CC-DRR, through designing a national convention for CC-DRR and involving children in programmes through training, education, collaboration with children's clubs, and participatory risk assessments to engage children in plans. Although the impact of this programme was not evaluated, the project report indicated that this is a promising practice worth further evaluating. ²⁰	CC-DRR is a key promising practice for engaging children in DRR programming and ensuring that they are considered in plans.	That further efforts are taken to evaluate CC-DRR programming and to refine and implement it at the national level with government collaboration.

²⁰ World Vision Lanka and UNICEF, "Project Completion Report: Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction Project - Program on Skills & Knowledge for Resilience and Meaningful Engagement in Disaster Preparedness and Response," December 2020.



VANUATU

Description of Country Office DRR Programmes:

Vanuatu's CO portfolio reflects the high disaster risk that this small island nation faces. During the past five years Vanuatu has experienced a major volcanic eruption, cyclone Harrold, and many smaller scale disasters.²⁰ In addition, grant support from Australia and New Zealand focused on more systematic efforts to reduce disaster risk. Through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership program, the CO has been able to implement risk reduction efforts aimed at improving the inclusiveness of DRR efforts, especially in relation to people with disabilities. New Zealand support focused on reducing vulnerability of residents in targeted areas by strengthening livelihoods. Both initiatives were medium term investments. The Australian funded programme facilitated a network type approach through a programme called Disaster Ready, which brought together numerous non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in support of risk reduction and humanitarian response. Finally, USAID/BHA invested Congressionally mandated COVID-19 Supplemental Funds to assist in the country's management of the epidemic. However, the investments were heavily focused on WASH interventions and no other aspects of DRR.

Key Takeaways:

- Vanuatu is ethnically diverse, resulting in differences in achievement between islands. For example, findings from a recent performance evaluation suggested that outcomes were substantively better in Torba than in Tana. Qualitative research suggested that cultural differences related to gender roles and openness to outside influences were very different between these two sites. This cultural diversity requires especially contextualized approaches to DRR.
- WV programming had an impact on national policies and programmes related to social inclusion in disaster preparedness and response. Social inclusion was a focus of the CO and stable staffing of inclusion expertise contributed to achievements in this area. Some of the key systems outcomes include:
 - WV developed questions on disabilities that were included in the latest national census.
 - WV contributed to the development of a national registry for people with disabilities.
 - WV built capacities among stakeholders for addressing needs of people with disabilities through training and technical support.
 - WV innovated with communities to develop products for disabled people such as locally produced and reusable sanitary pads and portable toilets.

Mongolia | World Vision, with support from USAID, delivered humanitarian assistance to herders to help them overcome the dzud situation.



²⁰ Global Volcanism Program, "Global Volcanism Program | Vanuatu Volcanoes," Smithsonian Institution | Global Volcanism Program, accessed August 23, 2024, <https://volcano.si.edu/>; UNDRR, "Disaster Risk Reduction in the Republic of Vanuatu: Status Report 2022."

- WV has a strong partnership with the National Disaster Management Office, supporting the equipping and training of Provincial Emergency Operation Centers and Area Councils in areas of interest to World Vision programming. This is an excellent vertical linkage with the national disaster risk management organisational structure that enables social inclusion approaches to be scaled at least in these intervention areas. It also provides the Government the capacity to extend coverage to Provinces.
- Geographical layering of donor projects in WV target areas was occurring, though it was not clear whether integration, or targeting of the same households was done where appropriate.
- Other projects to improve livelihoods and local disaster risk reduction committees were not consistently demonstrating impacts as per commissioned evaluation of project and interviews.²¹ Evaluations of local disaster and climate risk committees suggested that these were not demonstrating impact and sustainability. An innovative 3D Mapping of disaster risk was judged to not be useful by community committees.²² This might be attributed to the lack of long-term engagement in communities.
- Livelihood interventions in Tanna were appropriate, though no endline evaluation was available for this 5-year project. There was not an obvious linkage between the New Zealand sponsored Agricultural Development for Tanna's Economic Growth (ADTEG) and Disaster Ready and early recovery activities.
- Geographical layering was occurring at the district level, though there was no data on sub-district layering and integration within vulnerable households.
- While response and recovery efforts did include efforts to improve community resilience, there was no evidence that these efforts did ultimately reduce disaster risk, largely because these were shorter term interventions.
- COVID recovery, focused on WASH, indicated more could be done to improve outcomes of BBB.



MONGOLIA

Description of Country Office DRR Programmes:

The Mongolia CO is relatively unique in the geography of the country and its geopolitical importance. Its geography renders it vulnerable to devastating winter storms (Dzud), droughts, floods, earthquakes and fires.²³ Because of its geopolitical importance, Mongolia has had substantial USAID support around the topic of disaster risk reduction through various Agency funding streams from 2010 on. Other donors supporting DRR work are the EU (COVID-19 recovery support), German Government (Anticipatory Action), Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) (Solar Greenhouse project) and the Startfund (Winter storm Anticipatory Action).

Mongolia's main donor for grant projects is USAID. Since 2018, three separate projects have been funded in support of DRR. The best funded of these was a flood resilience project implemented with Habitat for Humanity. The project totaled 4.5 million USD over three years (combined budgets of implementing partners). No evaluation of this project was available. Two smaller and more recent projects included the two-year Disaster Resilient Urban Community (DRUC) project, 2018-2020 and the more recent Disaster Resilient Communities project (DRC), 2020-2022 that addressed the needs of urban and rural communities. DRC focused on building policy/institutional capacity for disaster risk management as well as strengthening the livelihoods of livestock. The livelihood intervention aimed to improve the livelihoods of herders by improving fodder and shelters for livestock and improving the management of transboundary veterinary diseases, including using Participatory Disease Surveillance/Participatory Epidemiology. Performance evaluations for both projects established that knowledge and some behavioral intermediate outcomes related to preparedness were achieved. Moderate changes were observed (approximately 20 percentage points).

Focused interventions to improve the outcome of those households practicing animal husbandry achieved more modest changes, only measurable at the output level. For example, for DRC, fodder interventions had not yet resulted in changes in animal health. This was due in part to the longer time frame needed to improve access to fodder as well as the question of the viability of animal husbandry among small scale herders.

WV also supported the implementation of participatory disease surveillance, which also will eventually enable veterinary services to better control zoonotic diseases.

Vanuatu | World Vision provided humanitarian assistance to communities affected by Typhoon Cyclone Judy and Kevin.



²¹ World Vision Vanuatu, CARE, and Australia Aid, "Impact Report: Investing in Sustainability of Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees in Vanuatu," 2018.

²² World Vision Vanuatu, "Impact Report: Participatory 3-Dimensional Mapping in SANMA Province, Vanuatu," August 2019.

²³ UNDRR, "Disaster Risk Reduction in Mongolia: Status Report 2019."

Key Takeaways:

- WV grant funded DRR efforts had a major impact on DRR efforts in Mongolia. WV developed two major tools for the National Emergency Management Agency. One was community disaster risk assessment methodology, and the other was the Be READY disaster risk communication package. Both are integrated into the National Emergency Management Agency and are being scaled nationally. This is a major achievement and should be documented as a case study for more wide distribution among WV offices in the region (and possibly globally).
- The CO takes DRR seriously. Enhanced resilience is one of three objectives of the CO Strategy.
- Efforts to reduce risk among pastoralists have seen modest effects²⁴, largely due to exceptional contextual factors and the longer-term investments required to help move some pastoralists out of the livelihood; better provide fodder; and achieve wide scale veterinary interventions. WV is among the most appropriate partners to work with this marginalized group.
- The Veterinary Service strongly appreciates WV collaboration to implement Participatory Disease Surveillance/Participatory Epidemiology for transboundary animal diseases. This is still a work in progress in terms of its maturity and impact on infectious disease management among animals.



Vanuatu | Margaret, 10, washes her hands with soap after using her family's accessible and inclusive toilet supported by WV on Santo Island.

**SRI LANKA****Description of Country Office DRR Programmes:**

World Vision has been operating in Sri Lanka since 1977. Recent DRR investments originate from USAID/BHA, Startfund (Anticipatory Action), the German Government (Child Centered DRR), UNICEF (Child Centered DRR) and ECHO (COVID) in addition to WV internal resources. The CO enjoys multiple cycles of support for DRR by USAID/BHA. Interventions primarily focus on livelihood support related to climate change adaptation but also emphasis is placed on subnational disaster risk management community and government structures. WV works closely with the Disaster Management Center, the Government of Sri Lanka's national coordinating body for disaster management.

This case includes a few key promising practices. First is the WV CO's close collaboration with key governmental institutions that are instrumental to DRR. Second, the CO has invested in partnership with UNICEF and the German Government in Child Centered DRR (CC-DRR). While the funding for these was modest, the results were impressive. CC-DRR work has demonstrated the importance of integrating children into DRR strategies.

The CO office partnership with BHA also has been exemplary. Many outcome indicators from this investment are positive, including modest increased income from climate smart agricultural activities promoted by the activity²⁵; and improved confidence of households that they can recover from disasters and are prepared for them. Other systems level outcomes include evidence of a revitalized community disaster management committee and improved functioning of district and divisional levels of the disaster management subsystems.

The CO has layered most of the BHA work in areas of the country where it has on-going APs, and this is mentioned as a part of WV's sustainability strategy. In addition, micro-grants are a part of AP programming in Sri Lanka, so this provides potential funding available to communities to implement DRR plans. The microgrants are an important resource. Unfortunately, evaluation information for the microgrants was not available for this research but should be a consideration for future DRR analysis work.

²⁴ World Vision Mongolia, "Evaluation Report: Disaster Resilient Community (DRC) Project," February 10, 2023.

²⁵ World Vision Lanka, "End Evaluation Report: Strengthening Community Disaster Resilience Project," October 24, 2022.



Sri Lanka | The natural farming project has positively supported and empowered the community, showcasing the changes and benefits experienced by local farmers and residents.

Key Takeaways:

- This is a CO that maintains a strong focus on DRR, including a separate DRR strategy document. This CO has demonstrated well how climate action and DRR can be successfully integrated.
- Performance evaluation data collected at the household level suggests that DRR investments by USAID/BHA have had tangible effects on household resilience. These include income and several resilience indicators. There also is evidence, triangulated from interviews and evaluation reports, that WV work to strengthen disaster management institutions at the district and lower levels is resulting in improved functioning of these units.
- Because the CO is layering donor and sponsorship programmes in select districts, the likelihood of continued strengthening of institutions, communities and households is increased. WV should follow closely how they can leverage long term field presence to promote sustainability of grant investments.
- WV collaboration with UNICEF is an excellent model for incorporating children into DRR programming. The work done in CC-DRR, though not formally evaluated, appeared to be a promising practice and an area of future evaluation research for WV.²⁶ CC programming includes education and training for children, activating existing networks of children's clubs, engaging children in participatory risk assessments, supporting them to develop annual risk reduction plans and facilitating their access to resources to implement their plans. WV also worked jointly with UNICEF to support the development of a national convention for CC-DRR. An important need is to more systematically evaluate these efforts and then to refine this model for potential national level adoption by the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Center in collaboration with the Department of Probation and Child Care Services among others.
- The CO AP strategy that includes the availability of microgrants for community programming offers an important potential model for community implementation of risk reduction plans or a way to mainstream risk reduction in community development plans. This possibility would benefit from further analysis.
- The CO has a strong linkage with the national Disaster Management Center. The Center values and expects WV to continue to support it to strengthen the district and lower levels of disaster management institutions. WV now has considerable experience working to strengthen district, divisional and GN (village) level structures. WV understands facilitating factors and barriers to this work. Further work could lead to models for strengthening these nodes of the system that might be scaled to the national level.
- The CO is doing important work to strengthen hazard, risk assessment and mitigative infrastructure planning at the local level, including the incorporation of children and youth into the process. Further work might move towards an integrated information system for DRR at the local level.

²⁶ World Vision Lanka and UNICEF, "Project Completion Report: Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction Project - Program on Skills & Knowledge for Resilience and Meaningful Engagement in Disaster Preparedness and Response."



Sri Lanka | Natural Farming Project Koica

VI. Towards a Way Forward

This analysis shows the recorded progress WV has made in addressing disaster risk in this highly risk prone region. Many promising practices have been uncovered through this analysis. The remainder of this report focuses on the way forward to strengthen and focus WV efforts to reduce disaster risk in the region.

First is the need for a corporate shift in the way that disaster risk reduction is conceived. Disaster Risk Reduction is an outcome, not a set of programme inputs (see figures 5-9, Table 6). Risk reduction is a function of many inputs, including policies/institutions at various levels aimed to anticipate disaster risk and respond to it in a manner that reduces disaster risk for future events. This is one of the most common investments that donors make to support governments to develop preparedness and response capacities. However, this is just one pillar of risk reduction activities which are mostly focused on improving the absorptive capacities of government and communities. Other key components of risk reduction include the availability of shock responsive safety nets that can anticipate and deliver consumption support to those who are at immediate risk of disasters. Safety nets, registries and delivery mechanisms need to be in place to cover areas of the country with disaster risk.

When disasters occur, early recovery and rehabilitation efforts should be designed to mitigate future disasters through an emphasis on Building Back Better. For example, infrastructure can be hardened to future disaster events and early recovery efforts might include food or cash for work that strengthens river levees.

Another key emphasis is on developing resilience capacities of organisations and households to absorb, adapt and transform in the face of risk to improve their ability to manage disaster risk before, during and after disaster events. These include social capacities, such as changed gender norms, that empower women and marginalized populations to better manage risk; efforts to increase savings to manage disaster risk.

Finally, development efforts that aim to transition poor households to sustainable escapes from poverty, such as the UPG Model, contribute to lower the vulnerability of communities and households to disaster risk. Across the board among the field cases, livelihood investments by WV were viewed to be high priority for reducing disaster risk by communities.

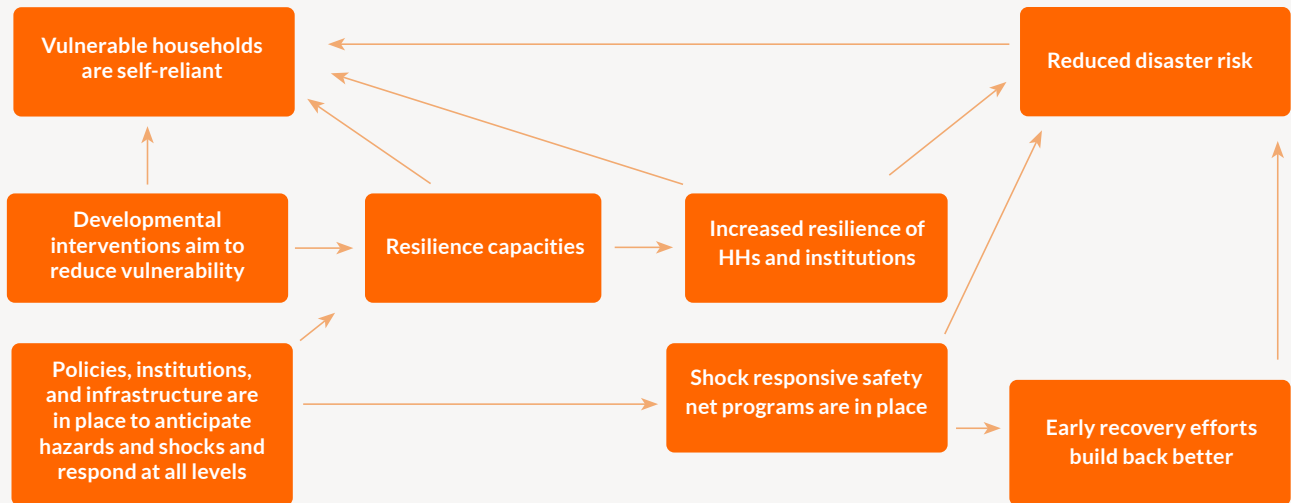


Figure 5: Conceptual Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

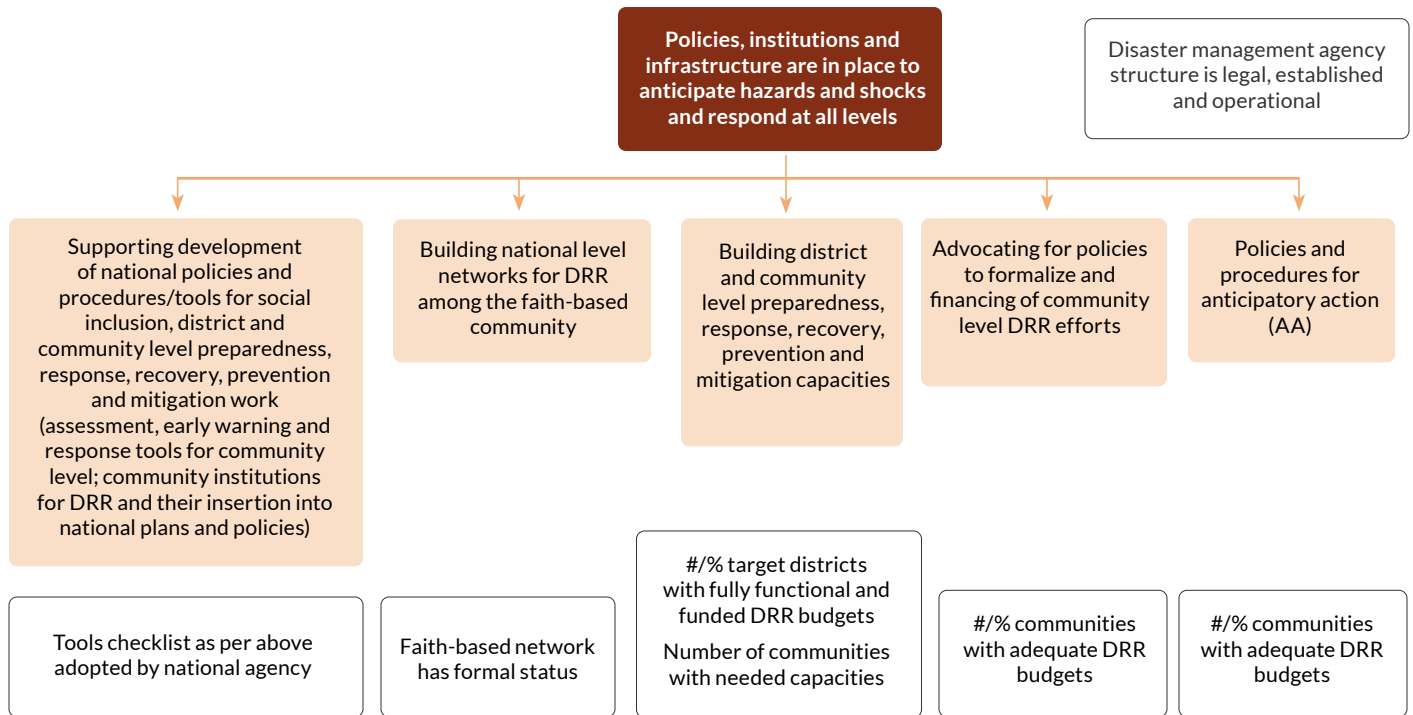


Figure 6: DRR Indicators and Pathways for Policies, Institutions, and Infrastructure

Mongolia | World Vision, with support from USAID, delivered humanitarian assistance to herders to help them overcome the dzud situation.



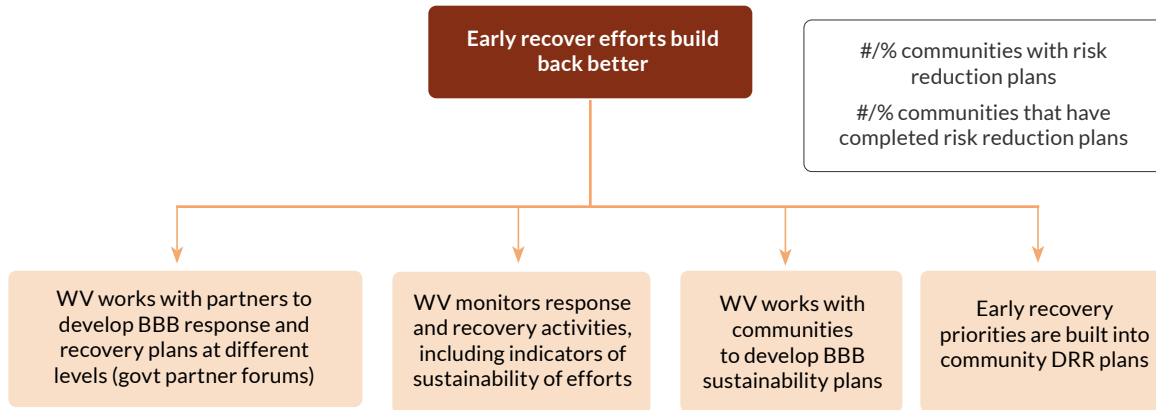


Figure 7: DRR Indicators and pathways for Early Recovery Efforts

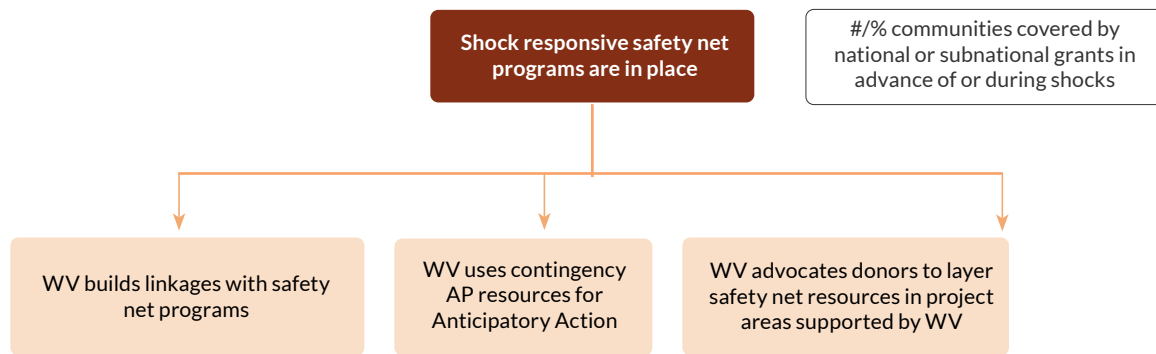


Figure 8: DRR Indicator and Pathways for Shock Responsive Safety Net Programmes

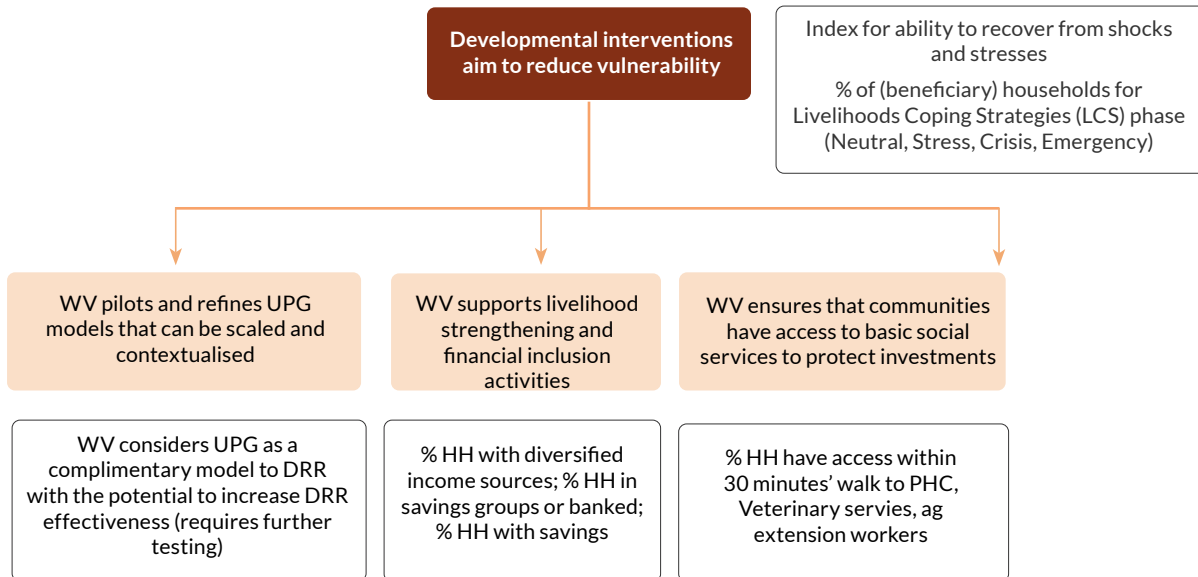


Figure 9: DRR Indicators and Pathways for Developmental Interventions to Reduce Vulnerability



Lao PDR | Village health workers provide counselling to mothers through a storytelling method on issues of maternal and child health care.

Table 6: Household and System Level Outcomes

Household level outcomes	System level outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to human and environmental systems • Humanitarian case loads • Expectations of recovery by HH • Destructive coping strategies • Food security • Self-reliance • Understanding of relevant hazards/shocks and how to prevent/mitigate/respond and recover from them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All levels of DRM institutions/committees are legally mandated and funded • DRM is holistically integrated into national and sub-national institutions: preparedness, response, recovery, exposure and vulnerability reduction • DRM institutions have sustainable capacity building and capacity maintenance strategies and funding • National DRM institutions are substantively linked to regional DRM institutions and can access and use early warning information from these institutions • Communities have access to timely and quality early warning information (tailored for the audience) • Shock responsive social safety nets are in place and achieve coverage of WV target programme areas • Where appropriate, insurance products are available and used anticipatorily • Systems resilience indicators are identified and measured

WV Conditions for Achieving DRR

This study suggests that WV should reflect on its corporate approach and capacity to more systematically embrace DRR in the region. A *Theory of Action* might look like the following:

- IF** World Vision conducts systematic multi-hazards risk and capacity assessment as part of its country strategy development
- IF** World Vision adopts a portfolio approach to DRR and leverages its longevity and area-based approaches
- IF** World Vision assesses its institutional capacity to achieve effective DRR programming (including human, financial and knowledge management)
- IF** World Vision leverages its strengths in community and long-term programming
- IF** World Vision monitors DRR as part of its core indicators
- THEN** DRR will have positive impacts in households and communities in which WV operates in.

WV Conditions for Achieving DRR

To measure key intermediate and final outcomes, WV might consider the following approaches:

A Recurrent Monitoring System around shock events or high frequency monitoring of areas covered by WV DRR programming. This would include monitoring the impacts of disasters in anticipation that programme areas would experience reduced impacts over time and should experience lower impacts than areas not covered by WV programming. These high frequency measurement strategies would collect light touch indicators such as human, animal, crop, asset and infrastructure losses, displacement, coverage of humanitarian assistance, food insecurity and coping strategies

Strengthen outcome monitoring by (1) WVI's L1 indicator list be revised to include more DRR HH and systems-level outcome indicators and (2) greater use of USAID, Feed the Future and other outcome-level L2 indicators for DRR and resilience-focused grant projects where appropriate. Integrating these into the corporate indicator framework will facilitate consistent and comparative measurement of DRR. This might mean that annual results monitoring would consistently include DRR information

Incorporation of outcome measures into project frameworks regardless of whether required by donors when relevant. It is clear from this study that the dearth of information on DRR outcomes, both HH and systems level, is largely due to donor requirements, which are predominantly output level measures.



Vanuatu | The Melanesia Rural Market and Innovation Development Project (Mermaid) aims to work to strengthen rural communities, improve nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture and empower women and youth in several communities throughout Tanna island.



Bangladesh | Volunteers are disseminating Cyclone awareness messages.

VII. Recommendations for WV and Donors

Recommendations for WV:

1. Adopt a broader framework for DRR, DRR as an outcome, in line with donors, and the Sendai Framework. When viewed as an outcome, DRR then becomes a concern of both relief and development programmes, and it can provide a unifying theme to countries in the Asia and Pacific region that are more threatened by disaster risk than any region of the World.
2. Use the Country Strategy Development as a tool for integrating DRR into programming. Many key informants identified the need for portfolio approaches to be implemented at the country level. The country strategy preparation process is one place where portfolio approaches aiming to reduce disaster risk can be consolidated. Also, in preparation for this exercise, WV might develop a standard tool for incorporating disaster risk into the Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) analysis, including targeting areas of the country with high disaster risk
3. Strengthen staff capacity to work across the nexus and to use Strategic Learning Initiatives to achieve DRR. This might include both increasing the numbers of staff trained in DRR approaches as well as deepening the competencies of existing staff, perhaps based upon a DRR programme capacity assessment
4. Monitor achievement of DRR in both annual AP reports where appropriate and project frameworks, this might include a corporate high frequency measurement approach around disaster events as well as incorporation of DRR outcomes into WV corporate indicator frameworks.
5. Strengthen and Test CBDRM intervention formulations. CBDRM as a core project model makes good sense when resources are sufficient to improve community capacities to reduce disaster risk. WV should consider experimenting with different formulations, considering impact evaluation methods to identify minimal requirements for substantively reducing disaster risk.
6. Consider developing and testing an integrated risk reduction information system platform for community-based disaster risk assessment and early warning, including the integration of citizen science and local knowledge. This can build on WV successes in Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh but move to a more modern and potentially corporate approach.
7. Address the problem of local financing of disaster risk reduction investments. WV's CVA and advocacy by WV to governments to ensure that legal status of local committees and local budgets are in place will help. Community mobilization of disaster risk management funds also should be encouraged.



Recommendations for Donors:

1. Focus HEA-funded “DRR” projects to achieve higher impacts. This study found that DRR was not a priority of donors or World Vision because there were “no champions” for DRR in the emergency funding stream. DRR also was not usually a priority for development-oriented interventions. DRR funded from emergency funds was not funded well, rarely exceeding 2 million USD and it also tended to have short time frames, averaging around 2 years. While the funding levels of risk reduction-oriented activities may not increase, improved focus of resources on fewer and more strategic investments should occur.
2. Improve/encourage the support for portfolio approaches among implementing partner’s aimed at achieving DRR outcomes. DRR is an outcome of many interventions that aim to reduce vulnerability and exposure to hazards and risks. DRR will be achieved when both developmental and emergency streams of financing are harnessed to reduce disaster risk. Preparation of project proposals to donors might require an analysis of the implementing partners’ portfolio and strategic gaps that might lead to considerable reduction in disaster risk.
3. Advocate for assumption, by government, of the cost of DRR investments at the subnational level.
4. Increase emphasis on DRR outcomes in performance monitoring. Donor agencies, particularly the emergency units of donors, primarily require output measures of effectiveness. While this may be more appropriate for emergency response, it is not appropriate for resilience capacities and efforts focused on disaster risk reduction. These activities should contribute to risk reduction, which is almost never measured as a part of required donor indicators. Donor investments should include risk reduction measures. Some of these can be borrowed from the development units of donors, which increasingly have elaborated resilience outcome indicators.

VIII. Conclusions

This qualitative study concludes that WV has a remarkable history of working with governments, communities and other sectors to reduce disaster risk. The determinants of success include long term presence, sequencing, layering and integration of humanitarian and development programmes around a strategic plan/framework/Theory of Change and staff experience/expertise and stability. Trusted partnership with key stakeholders also is essential to the success of these efforts.

The study identified several promising practices in areas such as CBDRM-that incorporates livelihood/financial inclusion with traditional DRR programming in the context of safety nets and access to basic services (UPG models), youth programming for risk reduction and urban programming that develops sectoral and cross sectoral networks in service of DRR.

This work developed a conceptual framework for the development of outcomes, indicators and metrics that should be developed by WV, though more work is required to finalize this aspect of the work.

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X. Appendix

Appendix 1: Semi-structured Questionnaire Guides

KIIs: Country Director/Deputy Director/Programme Officer

1. How long have you been in-country? As CD/DD/PO? Where were you working previously?
2. Were you involved in developing the country strategy? If so, what was your role? To what extent was there a comprehensive analysis of disaster risk as part of the process for designing the country strategy?
3. In your opinion, what has been the most significant impact on the reduction of disaster risk that can be attributed to or associated with World Vision interventions?
 - a. How do you know disaster risk has been reduced?
 - b. Which projects/activities contributed to these outcomes?
 - c. Why do you think these successes have occurred?
 - d. Who were your most important partners that helped you achieve these outcomes?
 - e. Can you provide us with names of key informants who have an insightful understanding of these projects?
4. Do you think that the country strategy adequately incorporates DRR into its goals, objectives, and approaches? If so, why? If not, why not? What should be done to strengthen the impact on disaster risk?
5. How does your country team understand resilience building to be the same or different from DRR programming?
6. Is DRR/resilience a component of development activities in your portfolio? If so, which projects? Which components address DRR/resilience?
7. Do your relief interventions include building back better or other interventions to reduce disaster risk in the future? If so, which projects? Which interventions?
8. Please tell us any other thoughts you have about how WV can better contribute to reduced disaster risk in Indonesia? What are the remaining gaps?
9. Which agencies and individuals do you think will be important for us to interview?

KIIs: Partners

1. What is your current job title? How long have you been working in this post? Where did you work previously?
2. Can you please tell us which WV activities you are familiar with?
3. How are you engaged with these activities?
4. In your view, what is the most significant contribution that WV has made to reducing disaster risk?
 - a. How do you know disaster risk has been reduced?
 - b. Why do you think this has occurred?
 - c. Which partnerships were essential to success?
 - d. What could be done to improve the impact of WV programmes?
5. Has WV improved your institution's capacity to manage disaster risk/increase resilience?
 - a. If so, what capacities have been improved?
 - b. What activities were most important to achieving these improvements?

- c. What partnerships were essential
- d. What gaps remain?
- e. How can WV improve the impact and sustainability of these efforts?
- 6. Do you think your community sees resilience and DRR as different or the same? Please explain?
- 7. Where do you see to be the major gaps in efforts in Laos to reduce disaster risk?
- 8. How well do you think DRR/resilience-oriented efforts are coordinated?
- 9. Do stakeholders have adequate data on hazards and disaster risk to properly plan intervention strategies?
 - a. If not, what information is needed
 - b. What coordinating structures can be strengthened or new ones put into place?

KIIs: Local Leaders:

- 1. What is your title? How long have you held this position?
- 2. Which WV activities are being implemented in your community/district/province?
- 3. To what extent were you involved in the planning of these activities?
- 4. Does your office receive any funds from WV?
- 5. In your view, what is the most important contribution that WV has made to reducing disaster risk?
 - a. How do you know?
 - b. Which activities seem to be most important?
 - c. Which are most appreciated by your office?
 - d. Why do you think these efforts have/have not been successful?
 - e. What could be done to improve the impact and sustainability of this work?
- 6. Which are the major partners that work in your area to reduce disaster risk?
- 7. Is there a coordinating structure that addresses DRR/resilience building efforts? How is that working?
- 8. In your view, what is needed to further reduce disaster risk in your community/district/province?
- 9. Can you tell us the name of other organisations and individuals who know a lot about DRR?

End User Client FGD:

Each FGD was assembled with the help of WV staff. When in a country, we made sure to have selected geographical locations and strata of clients that should be the most informative based upon interventions. For example, local DRR forums, religious leaders, and private sector partners.

Focusing question: I know this community faces many disaster risks (list the types in the areas). Which are the disasters that have most affected your lives?

WV Interventions: WV has been working in your community, what difference has this made in your ability to manage disasters?

- a. What is different now because of WV presence?
 - b. Why is this important?
 - c. When WV projects close, will you still be able to manage better?
 - d. Have you been able to help other family members, friends, or colleagues outside your community because of what you learned from WV?
 - i. If so, what do you share with others?
 - e. What gaps still remain in your ability to manage disasters? What can be done to address these?
- Have you had to deal with a disaster recently? Which disaster? When?

Did you use anything you learned from the programme to manage the disaster? What did you do differently? Did it help you reduce the effects of the disaster?

Appendix 2: Qualitative Coding Analyses by Country

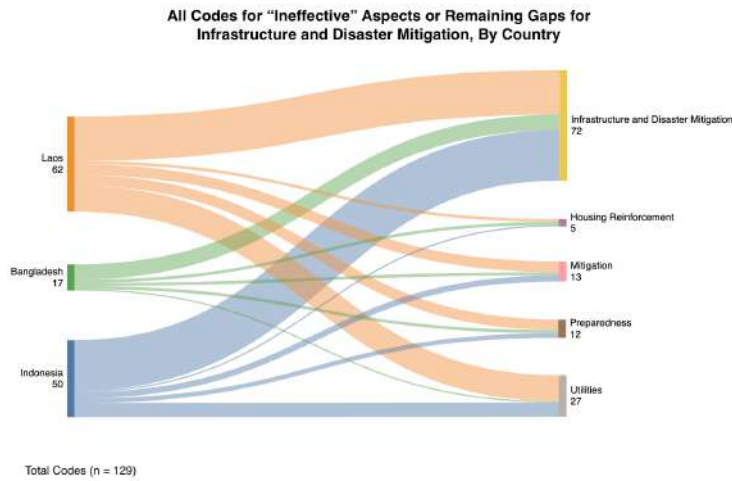


Figure 10: "Ineffective" Aspects or Remaining Gaps for Infrastructure and Disaster Mitigation, By Country

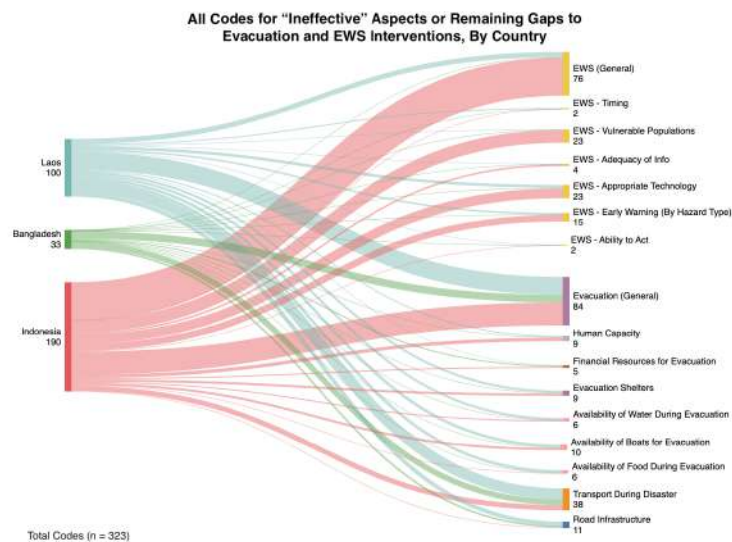


Figure 11: "Ineffective" Aspects or Remaining Gaps to Evacuation and EWS Interventions, By Country

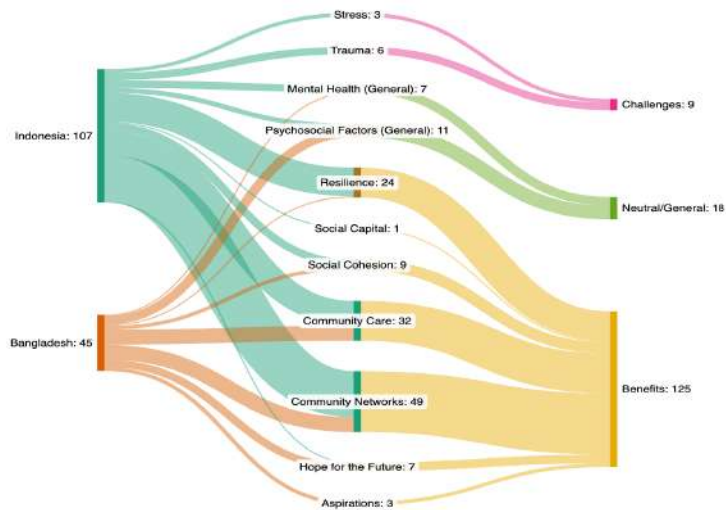


Figure 12: Challenges, Benefits, and Neutral Factors of DRR Programming in Indonesia and Bangladesh

Appendix 3: Key Information Sources:

Key informant interviews:

- WV senior HEA staff, US support office
- Regional HEA team, Asia and Pacific Islands
- In country senior programme officers, DRR focal points, AP managers, project managers, and monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) teams
- National, provincial, district and community level disaster risk reduction focal points
- Key stakeholders in country receiving support from WV DRR oriented interventions
- USAID project officers
- Focus Group Discussions
- Clients of WV AP and DRR activities
- Local disaster risk reduction committees
- Specific activity groups: savings groups, farmers groups, women vendors, youth groups
- Documents (see Appendix 4 for Country Strategies and Project Award Documents, Evaluations, and Final Reports)
- Country Strategies
- Project award documents
- Project evaluations
- Project final reports
- AP annual reports

Appendix 4: Country Strategies and Project Award Documents, Evaluations, and Final Reports Reviewed

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