

CHILD-CENTRED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: A HOLISTIC, RIGHTS-BASED CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



Mayeda Rashid¹, Briony Towers², Kevin Ronan³

¹ School of Human, Health and Social Sciences, CQUniversity, Melbourne VIC ² Geospatial & Mathematical Sciences, RMIT, Melbourne VIC
³ School of Human, Health and Social Sciences, CQUniversity, Rockhampton QLD

Child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CC-DRR) is a flexible, rights-based, innovative approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) combining child-focused (for the children) and child-led (by the children) activities involving children, families, communities, Non Governmental Organisations, Emergency Management Agencies and governments (UNICEF, 2014; PLAN UK, 2010; Save the Children, 2007).

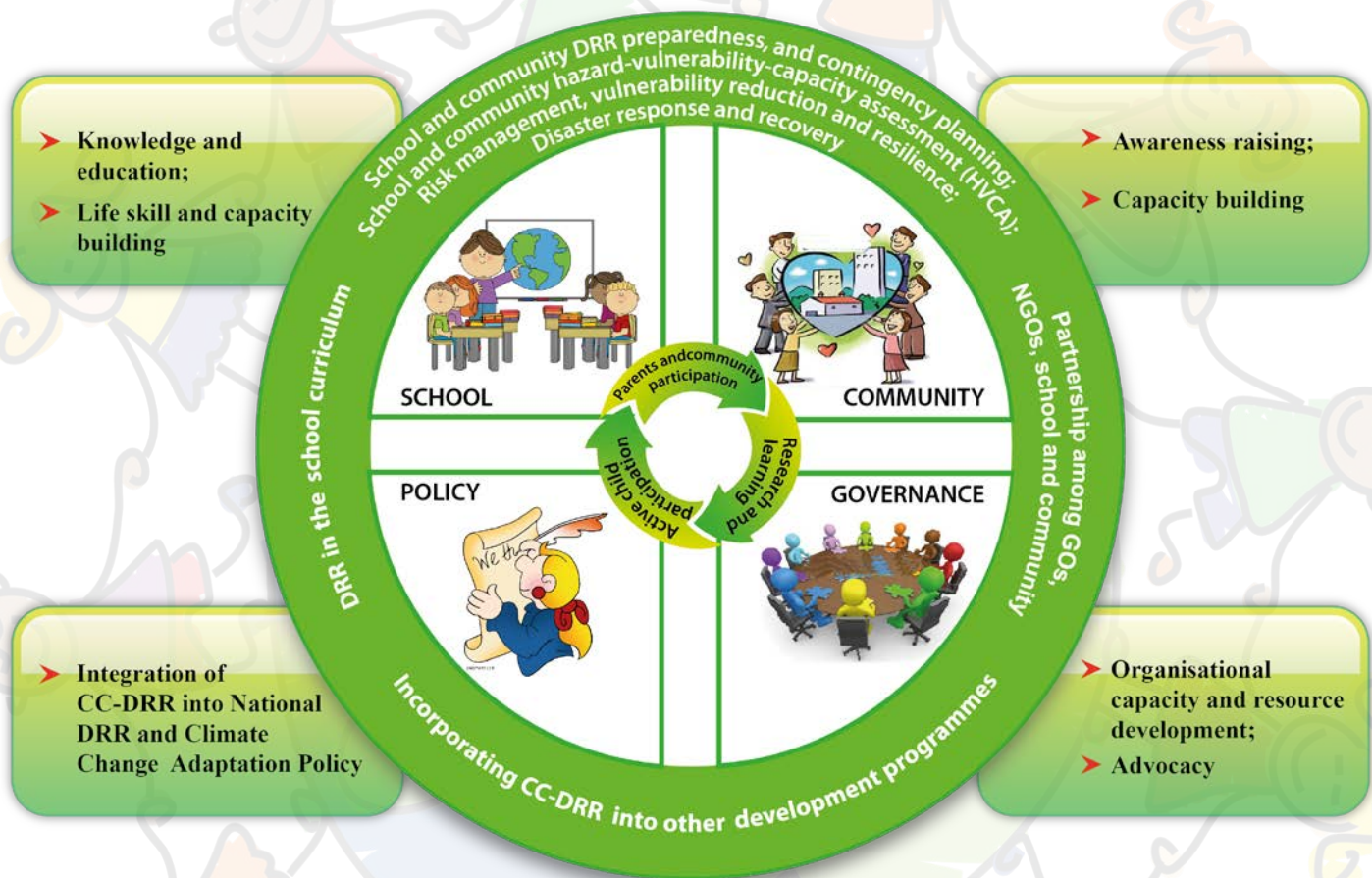


Figure: Conceptual Framework of CC-DRR

CC-DRR Theory of Change:

Following the four principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: i) non-discrimination; ii) the best interests of the child; iii) the right to life, survival and development; (iv) the view of the child, CC-DRR is designed based on the following theory of change:

Children and young people have the right to participate in the decisions that affect their lives and thus they have the right to participate in the design, development and governance of DRR initiatives. Their participation results in better decisions, higher quality initiatives, greater access to initiatives, and increased capacity and resilience as a result of those initiatives (Plan UK, 2010).

While CC-DRR is sometimes used to refer to stand alone programmes or projects, in its true form CC-DRR involves incorporating and mainstreaming child participation across all DRR activities at the local, regional and national level. This presupposes a mere focus on school-based disaster resilience education or one-off opportunities for children to contribute their views and perspectives. It requires that children are considered as active partners and stakeholders in DRR, not just simple beneficiaries of top-down decision-making.

