

Tajikistan – Integrated Safety and Health Education

Promoting safety, health, and well-being education in schools throughout Tajikistan

23 October 2018

Background

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) has worked with local schools to provide education materials and activities on disaster preparedness, health, and water sanitation in several of its projects in Tajikistan. These school activities have provided a consistent entry point for expanding engagement with communities and multiplying impact for local resilience interventions. [More background on relevant RCST programmes](#) is available on the RCST website.

Other organisations are also supporting similar activities as part of their programs with vulnerable communities.



Source: Pierre Thiriet for Mercy Corps, https://ec.europa.eu/echo/blog/tajikistan-disaster-risk-reduction-begins-schools_en

Goal

RCST wants to scale up the reach of safety and health education in Tajikistan by partnering with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, the Aga Khan Development Foundation, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, and other interested organizations. Through this effort the goal is to reach and engage all of the schools in Tajikistan and their respective communities. In particular, RCST sees an opportunity to provide content and suggested activities to help teachers use the existing weekly “Education Hours” to provide a strong learning opportunity on safety, health, and wellbeing.

Rationale

As a world-wide leader in health and safety certifications, with millions of youth volunteers, the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has received requests from Ministries of Education in various countries to collaborate in developing and disseminating school safety and health content and learning opportunities for use in primary and secondary schools.

RCST and its partner networks are uniquely positioned to:

1. Provide expertise to support the development of relevant safety and health content
2. Advocate jointly with Ministries and school districts to promote safety and health education and collective solutions on resilience
3. Connect local educators and local volunteers (through RCST ‘primary organisations’) to
 - a. link learning and action on resilience, using existing courses and community preparedness activities (e.g. First Aid, local assessments, family disaster plans, etc.)
 - b. review school safety and preparedness
4. Validate skills through existing certification programmes (e.g. for First Aid)

The Concept

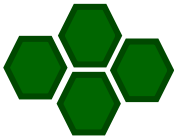
Currently RCST connects with individual schools and integrates school learning activities with wider community resilience initiatives (e.g. in disaster preparedness and water, sanitation, and hygiene).

This concept explores working in partnership to engage teachers and students in the wider set of 4,000+ schools in Tajikistan.



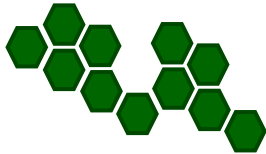
National level

With the proposed project, RCST will work with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and EMERCOM, and other interested partners to provide content and activities on safety, health, and well-being to be disseminated and used throughout Tajikistan's full network of schools.



District level

The Ministry of Education holds teacher refresher trainings at the district level on a yearly basis. The partners in the Integrated Safety and Health Education programme would provide Training-of-Trainer materials for use at the district trainings and provide facilitation services on request.



Local level

Having participated in the district trainings, teachers would be able to choose content from the Integrated Safety and Health Education menu of topics and activities to inform the weekly "Education Hour" sessions held in Tajikistan's schools. Teachers could also connect with local RCST branches or other partner organisations to include additional learning-by-doing activities in the sessions.

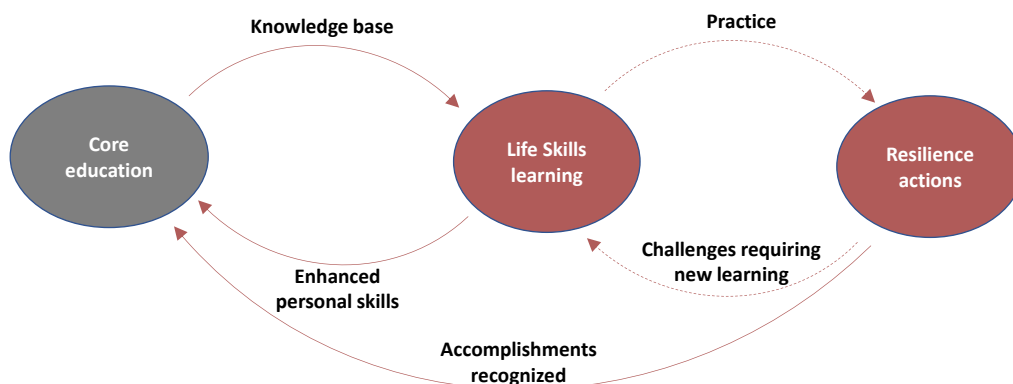


Community level

The student activities would also include age-appropriate homework assignments (e.g. to create a family disaster plan), opportunities for learning-by-doing in the community (e.g. participating in an assessment exercise with local RCST volunteers), or in class activities (e.g. participating in a First Aid certification class). These activities provide a way to multiply impact as students engage with others in their families and communities to complete the assignment.

Core education – life skills learning – resilience action

To better link learning and action on resilience, the initiative will connect youth, schools, and community in a joint model for action, supported by organisational partners in their respective areas of strength:



The Details

Components

The Integrated Safety and Health Education programme would cover a range of topics:

- First aid
- Humanitarian needs and principles
- Inclusiveness, conflict resolution (Youth as Agents of Behavior Change)
- Road safety
- Health, nutrition, and non-communicable diseases (linked to Defeat NCDs)
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation



Source: Save the Children, [Central Asia programme site](#)

Local activities

+ Schools

- Recruitment of principals and teachers as local resilience champions
- Establishment of School Disaster Management Team (linked to the Local Disaster Management Committee / RCST Primary Organization)
- Review of school disaster plan as well as evacuation plan and signs
- Provision of disaster preparedness materials (e.g. fire extinguishers)
- Creation of information boards and other communication materials
- Drills and simulations

+ Students

- Lectures based on provided content
- Classroom-based activities
- Tests (to demonstrate knowledge and skills)
- Competitions (drawings, essays, First Aid skill demonstration)

+ Community (passing knowledge and action from children to families)

- Homework assignments with family (e.g. creating family disaster plan)
- Learning-by-doing with RCST volunteers in community (e.g. First Aid classes, community risk and vulnerability mapping)

National organizing activities

A multi-stakeholder partnership will be developed among the participating organizations to guide a joint strategy at national and district levels. The strategy would look to leverage existing service training and dissemination mechanisms (e.g. through the Ministry of Education) to train teachers and students.

Connections to the One Billion Coalition for Resilience

In the face of rising vulnerability and adversity and with the benefit of unparalleled technology and innovation, we are not yet truly capitalizing on or adequately supporting the capacity of people and communities to organize to increase their safety, health, and well-being.

The [One Billion Coalition for Resilience](#) (1BC) provides a unique opportunity to connect the dots between our programme, to use our network resources more consistently and efficiently, and to enable more people and communities to engage alongside our partner networks. 1BC brings together governments, civil society, the business community and other leaders and influencers, in coordinated initiative and advocacy for resilience action at all levels.



1BC has been convened by the IFRC and joined by UNICEF, WFP, the Connecting Business initiative and a growing number of other members at global, regional, and national levels. RCST is proposing the Integrated Safety and health Education initiative as a national contribution for Tajikistan toward 1BC.

Why a Global Initiative on Community Resilience?

- Risk and vulnerability are still too strong a threat in many communities
- Local solutions are needed to bring about lasting change
- Our networks have the potential to better support local solutions and multiply collective impact but are not doing this consistently enough
- Individual and community actions should be counted toward global goals

What is the 1BC?

By 2025, at least one billion people around the world will have taken active steps to strength their resilience.

This is our vision for 1BC – that, given the right support, people and communities everywhere can work together to be safer, healthier, and more prosperous, even in the face of adversity.

What is the value of working within a coalition?

<u>An easy approach to engage partners and combine efforts</u>	<u>Strengthened position as a resilience-building organisation</u>	<u>Enhanced resources and knowledge sharing</u>
Our experience shows that the greatest lever for creating resilience solutions is bringing together diverse partners that can share expertise, financial and material resources, and access to other networks for further support.	No organization can meet every need. 1BC positions its member as facilitators of partnerships that promote collaboration to address gaps and ensure maximum resilience-building impact in communities.	1BC brings opportunities to build the capacity of your staff and volunteers, working with partners, through streamlined resource and knowledge sharing.

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