

# School Preparedness Programme Malaysia

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## **Background**

Annual monsoon flooding occurs in many parts of Malaysia

The southern part of Malaysia was affected by severe flooding twice in a month - late December 2006 and again in mid-January 2007





## Background

- 17 deaths
- 200,000 people affected in 800 villages and 111 residential areas
- 110,000 people were in 344 evacuation centres
- 1,500 people still in evacuation centres 3 weeks after the flooding





## **Background**

This prompted MERCY Malaysia to embark on the SPP in Malaysia to share experiences from our work overseas

We wanted to contribute to reducing risk and building a resilient community



## Background

Targetting schools is an important first step:

- Children are amongst the most vulnerable
- Schools need to be a safe place
- Schools are an important community resource

When children are taught about disasters it builds greater awareness across the whole community



## Background

The SPP provides practical, hands-on activities to promote disaster preparedness

It engages students to take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others

By working closely with the Ministry of Education we aligned the SPP with the Ministry's existing programmes.



# School Preparedness Programme

## Objectives

Promote a culture of disaster preparedness

Increase capacity of schools and students to respond to disasters



# School Preparedness Programme

## Components

School Watching

School Response Preparedness

School Preparedness Team



# School Preparedness Programme

## 1. School Watching

- School Watching Workshop (students)
- School Watching TOT (teachers)

Train participants in School Watching technique

Participants to train others in their schools

Promote awareness raising activities



# School Preparedness Programme

## 2. School Response Preparedness

Increase capacity of the school community to respond to disasters by

- forming and training student Task Forces
- conducting a school-wide evacuation drill



# School Preparedness Programme

## 2. School Response Preparedness

### Student Task Forces

1. First Aid
2. Fire Safety
3. Search & Rescue
4. Evacuation
5. Awareness



# School Preparedness Programme

## 3. School Preparedness Team

Team consists of volunteers and staff

Teams set up in different parts of Malaysia

Provided training to team members, including

- Sensitisation on DRR
- Orientation to SWW module
- Practical sessions conducting activities



# School Preparedness Programme

## Outcomes

A review at the end of 2008 revealed that:

- more than 50% of respondents said their attitudes about disaster preparedness had improved
- 56% felt their awareness on risks, hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities had been raised
- almost 80% had discussed what they learnt about disaster preparedness with their families
- 92% had conducted at least one disaster preparedness activity at their school



## School Preparedness Programme

Creating an environment where students

- Know about their risks
- Know how to prepare and respond

...and are

- Motivated
- Empowered
- Resilient
- Able to help themselves and others



## School Preparedness Programme

### What is School Watching?

It is a hands-on risk assessment technique

Participants

- learn about disasters and disaster preparedness
- Identify vulnerabilities and capacities at school
- Decide how vulnerabilities can be reduced



# School Preparedness Programme

## What is School Watching?

*Step 0: Learn about disasters*

*Step 1: Know your school*

*Step 2: Develop a map*

*Step 3: Group discussion and presentation*



# School Preparedness Programme

## What is School Watching?

*Step 0: Learn about disasters*



# School Preparedness Programme

## What is School Watching?

*Step 1: Know your school*



# School Preparedness Programme

## What is School Watching?

*Step 2: Develop a map*



# School Preparedness Programme

## What is School Watching?

*Step 3: Group discussion and presentation*



# School Preparedness Programme

## What is School Watching?

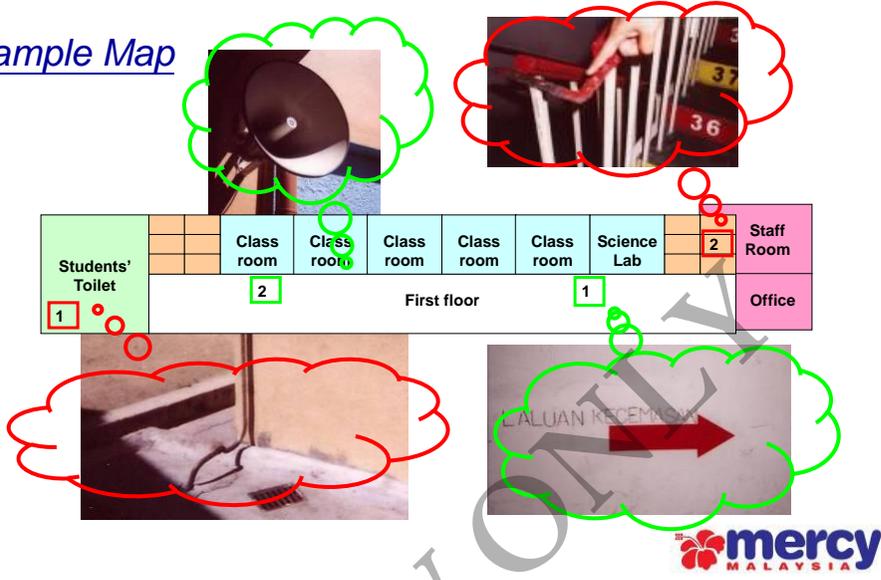
### Outputs

- Map and Table
  - Hazards & Solutions
  - Person in Charge of the solutions
- Action Plan for solutions at the school level
- Increased awareness of
  - disaster preparedness and why it is important
  - safety issues at school



# School Preparedness Programme

## Sample Map



# School Preparedness Programme

## Sample Table

| Hazard                        | Solution                              | Responsible  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Electrical cable exposed   | Call electrician<br>Rope-off the area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•GPK HEM</li> <li>• School maintenance</li> </ul> |
| 2. Handrail rusted and broken | Repair the handrail                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•GPK HEM</li> </ul>                               |

# School Preparedness Programme

## Sample Action Plan

| Risk Reduction Activity | When?      | How?   | Resources     | Resources needed | Responsible |
|-------------------------|------------|--|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Rope-off the area    | 15 minutes | a) Put up a barrier<br>b) Place a warning sign on the wall | Pen and paper | Barrier          | Teacher     |



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