



Project ENCORE aims to:

- ◆ *Increase the capacity of children and youth to identify risks, solutions, and initiate action on DRR within their communities;*
- ◆ *Improve the capacity of households to adopt appropriate waste management and alternative livelihood options to ensure food security during disasters; and*
- ◆ *Establish a system for well-coordinated disaster risk reduction and response actions from stakeholders at the local and provincial levels.*

Targeted households are the poorest and most vulnerable families living in informal urban settlements alongside the river that are exposed to frequent disasters.

Project ENCORE Enhancing Community Resilience to Disasters

Supporting SHINe (School Hydrological Information Network)

Increasing children's awareness and participation in disaster risk reduction

On September 26, 2011, Typhoon Nesat (Pedring) hit close to 3,500 communities in the northern region of the Philippines. Typhoon Nalgae (Quiel) hit on October 1, taking the same route. About 4 million were affected by the typhoons, destroying agricultural lands, road and water systems, health centers and 914 schools. A total of 101 people died, including 42 children.

Save the Children's Project ENCORE (Enhancing Community Resilience to Disasters) builds on the Nesat/Nalgae emergency as well as other programs' experience to increase the understanding of the hazards the province of Bulacan faces. Through an innovative urban disaster risk reduction approach, the project aims to facilitate the organizing of child-led groups to disseminate DRR/mitigation messages and implement DRR/mitigation activities supporting the province's SHINe (School Hydrological Information Network) program.

In coordination with Ms. Liz Mungcal, Bulacan's Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officer, Mr. Hilton Hernando, Assistant Weather Services Chief of the Pampanga River Basin Flood Forecasting and Warning Center/PAGASA which is under the Department of Science and Technology, and the Department of Education Division of Bulacan, SHINe orientation sessions were conducted for nine (9) schools covered by ENCORE.

The high school batch was conducted on February 8 at Sta. Lucia High School where students from the host school and from Frances High School in Calumpit participated. Students from the Sta. Monica High School in Hagonoy also attended the session. On February 12, the orientation for the Calumpit elementary schools which include F. Mendoza Memorial Elementary School Annex, Frances Elementary School and the host school, Arsenio Santos Memorial Elementary School was conducted, while the last batch was for the elementary schools in Hagonoy and was conducted on February 13 to include Sto. Nino Elementary School, San Agustin Elementary School and the host school, Hagonoy East Central Elementary School.



A total of 55 high school and 118 elementary students attended the orientation sessions, while 13 school teachers also attended to observe and assist the students in understanding their new roles in disaster risk reduction.

Representatives from the Provincial DRR Management Office (Raul Agustin and Bryan Cyro Velasco) oriented the students on the role of their organization. Mr. Hernando provided technical inputs on weather and flood forecasting to encourage the students in monitoring rainfall and in tracking the storms.

PRFFWC/PAGASA also provided manual rain gauges which were donated to their office by SMART Telcom and supervised its installation in the schools together with Mr. Lamberto Silvestre of the Bulacan PDRRMO.

Handouts, Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) maps and data sheets were provided to the schools to enable the SHINE members to record daily rainfall observations. Participating students were given SHINE identification cards to facilitate their dissemination of DRR messages and to recruit more students. SCI-trained members of the children's DRR brigades assisted in preparing for and hosting the SHINE orientation sessions.

Rainfall monitoring data is crucial in forecasting floods. These data serve as basis for emergency decisions and activation of early warning systems in schools and communities, and also in the development of strategies at the provincial and national levels.

Project ENCORE encourages partnerships, participation and sharing of resources. School officials, teachers, parents, barangay officials, community leaders, and most especially schoolchildren and out-of-school youth, including persons with disabilities – all are given equal opportunities to participate, lead and evaluate effective DRR mechanisms to ensure preparedness and resilience to disasters.

The School Hydrological Information Network (SHINE) is a program aimed at addressing the issues of Global Warming, particularly focusing on the awareness to hydrometeorological-related disasters as a result of changes in climate. This supports the Department of Education's thrust on "climate change-enhanced curriculum" and consistent with the principle that disaster awareness should begin in schools.

SHINE's main objective is to enhance the disaster awareness of the school populace, prevent loss of life and protect property by achieving and maintaining a high level of school preparedness. It shall work hand-in-hand with the local government unit's Disaster Coordinating Council, particularly with the community-based flood warning system. The program is particularly more important to areas that are vulnerable and prone to floods and flashfloods.

The features of SHINE are:

- ◆ *School-based hydrometeorological-related disaster monitoring system*
- ◆ *School-based hydrological (rainfall, river stage, tropical cyclone tracking, etc) observation network mainly for disaster-preparedness and awareness, database for early warning purposes, research purposes*
- ◆ *Support for community information*

Number of Participants per School					
SCHOOLS	# TEACHERS	# STUDENTS	TOTAL MALE	TOTAL FEMALE	TOTAL PAX
February 8 @ Sta. Lucia High School, Sta. Lucia, Calumpit					
Frances National High School	1	19	18	2	20
Sta. Lucia High School	2	17	7	12	19
Sta. Monica High School	1	19	9	11	20
Subtotal	4	55	34	25	59
February 12 @ Arsenio Santos Memorial Elementary School, Gatbuca, Calumpit					
Frances Elementary School	1	20	5	16	21
F. Mendoza Memorial Elementary School Annex	1	20	9	12	21
Arsenio Santos Memorial Elementary School	1	19	7	13	20
Subtotal	3	59	21	41	62
February 13 @ Hagonoy East Central Elementary School, Sto. Nino, Hagonoy					
Sta. Monica Elementary School	2	20	7	15	22
San Agustin Elementary School	1	19	4	16	20
Hagonoy East Central Elementary School	3	20	7	16	23
Subtotal	6	59	18	47	65
TOTAL	13	173	73	113	186

Save the Children is committed to continue these initiatives in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Future plans for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation include the following:

- ◆ **Mobilizing** relevant government agencies and the private sector that can provide support in information dissemination and setting up DRR mechanisms in schools and communities;
- ◆ **Facilitating** the formation of child-led and/or youth groups and supporting their initiatives in DRR;
- ◆ **Disseminating** relevant and timely information on DRR and its link to waste management, food security, livelihoods, and the environment; and
- ◆ **Strengthening** local disaster risk reduction management groups in planning and implementing DRR activities.

To this end, collaboration and sharing of resources is crucial in achieving meaningful results. Our school- and community-based DRR mechanisms and activities shall serve as a model for others to follow in reducing the risks of disaster for the families and the children.