



Research report summary

Scalable approaches, methods and tools for Child-Centred Risk Reduction and Resilience

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Summary

Practitioners and researchers in Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) and school safety seek to safeguard the threats to children's rights and help alleviate the suffering caused by hazard and risk impacts of all kinds. They work towards achieving impact, at scale.

Over the last 15 years there has been substantial growth in research on the role of children and children's education in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Despite this attention, however, there has been limited in-depth attention within CCDRR to understanding scaling up and what makes initiatives effective for scale-up.

This research sets out to address this critical gap in CCDRR and to strengthen the capacity of effectively scaling up CCDRR initiatives, including Comprehensive School Safety (CSS).

The report is divided into the following sections:

1. Introduction
 2. Methodology
 3. Understanding scaling up and scalability
 4. Measuring scalability
 5. Conclusion and recommendations
- References and annexes

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Background

This research addresses a critical gap in CCDRR, framed by the following four questions:

1. What is scaling up and scalability with relevance to CCDRR?
2. What are good practices for successful scale-up of CCDRR, including CSS (Pillars 2/3)?
3. What CCDRR/CSS initiatives are most appropriate to scale up?
4. What are the most effective means to design, develop and prepare to deliver scalable initiatives in CCDRR, including CSS (Pillars 2/3)?

‘Scaling up’ and ‘Effective scaling up’ were first defined:

- To ensure relevance to CCDRR, this research defines scaling up as the physical spread of activities, structures or materials, as well as the spread of practices, behaviours or norms. Scalability, however, is not simply the potential of

a particular initiative to be scaled up. Rather, it is its potential to be effectively scaled up.

- Taking into account a broader range of considerations, ‘effective scaling up’ is defined as expanding successful and adaptable initiatives that are sustained over time with the aim of benefiting more people.

This research developed a framework: the Scalability Assessment and Planning (SAP) Toolkit. This framework measures scalability and identifies corrective actions to support and plan for effective scaling up. The SAP Toolkit incorporates good practice for successful scale-up, and lessons learned from CCDRR including CSS Pillars 2/3 and comparative sectors.

Methods and measures

A mixed-methods approach was used. The research was conducted in stages, including literature reviews, key informant interviews (KIIs), and fieldwork in two countries.

Based on a review of scaling up debates, case studies and good practices – in both CCDRR and comparative sectors (Education and Health in particular) – key concepts of scaling up and scalability were established. These concepts formed the foundation for the research, as well as a SAP Toolkit that was revised and tested throughout the process.

The SAP Toolkit assessed and measured the scalability of 25 studied initiatives, which were then scored and analysed to identify what makes specific CCDRR and CSS initiatives more scalable. The Toolkit was applied to both CCDRR and non-CCDRR initiatives to test their ability to effectively measure scalability and guide the design and preparations to deliver scalable initiatives in CCDRR.

A full workshop model piloted in India and Bangladesh was developed to roll-out use of the SAP Toolkit.

Findings

1. What is scaling up and scalability with relevance to CCDRR?

- Effective scaling up is characterised by successful, adaptable and sustainable initiatives that iteratively incorporate M&E through the piloting and scaling up process.
- These features are prerequisites or deal breakers for effective scaling up. This process can also be further enabled (or disabled) by various internal and external factors that will vary between contexts, initiatives and scaling entities.
- Combined, these deal breaker criteria and internal and external factors provide a framework. This framework can help measure the scalability of an initiative and identify corrective to support and plan effective scaling up of CCDRR and CSS initiatives.

2. What are good practices for successful scale-up of CCDRR, including CSS (Pillars 2/3)?

- Developed by the research team, the SAP Toolkit incorporates good practices for successful scale-up of CCDRR, including CSS Pillars 2/3. The SAP Toolkit:
 - Identifies the types and pathways of scaling up
 - Considers the impact on effective scaling up if both horizontal and vertical (a combination advised by good practice) scaling up are not planned for.
 - Considers different pathways to follow good practice in considering what routes to scale up are most appropriate for the initiative.
- These good practices and lessons also directly inform the deal breaker criteria, and the internal and external factors that can influence scaling up through which the scalability is measured.

3. What CCDRR/CSS initiatives are most appropriate to scale up?

- The SAP Toolkit demonstrates it is possible to identify features of CCDRR/CSS initiatives that are most appropriate to scale up. Results showed that moderate and high scores for scalability included a range of curriculum integration levels, which suggests that there is no single 'most scalable' type of initiative.
- The most appropriate initiatives to scale up are those that score moderately or high against the SAP deal breaker criteria, and internal and external factors. These initiatives moderately to the definition of effective scaling up with a supportive enabling environment.
- One of the biggest barriers to effective scaling up are limitations to M&E. This was both to identify potentially positive initiatives as a result of a lack of or insufficient quality in evaluating the success of initiatives in achieving their objectives, and a sufficiently robust M&E system to support monitoring during scale up.
- The degree of significance of internal and external factors on the enabling environment will vary between contexts, initiatives and scaling entities, though support from national authorities (including regional and local authorities) is particularly critical.
- Factors that potentially require extra attention are building ownership by engaging the scaling entity in the design process, and understanding and assessing the comparative advantage of the initiative. Findings suggest that the influence of monetary or non-monetary incentives on an enabling environment will be more varied than other factors.

4. What are the most effective means to design, develop and prepare to deliver scalable initiatives in CCDRR, including CSS (Pillars 2/3)?

- The SAP Toolkit and integrated workshop guidance (which can be used during the design phase, piloting, or once scaling up is underway) is an effective means to design, develop and prepare to deliver scalable initiatives.
- To be most effective, it requires a participatory process. Findings suggest that planning from the beginning for scale up is less common among

NGOs/UN/Red Cross Movement, and also less common among initiatives where the piloting and scaling entities are different.

- The SAP Toolkit can also support 'planning for scaling up' from the beginning, a good practice and an enabling factor for scalability.
- Tested in two workshop settings that participants found simple and engaging, the now revised SAP Toolkit provides a strong foundation to guide future CCDRR scaling debates.

Recommendations

To progress towards improved scalability in CCDRR, the following steps are recommended:

- Save the Children to review CCDRR M&E systems to ensure that all initiatives planned for scaling up have been formally or informally evaluated for effectiveness.
- Save the Children to launch and encourage all countries and eventually GADRRRES partners to test the SAP Toolkit in their contexts and document the results.
- Following piloting in at least five different locations, the SAP Toolkit to be updated and revised based on an analysis of participant feedback and facilitator observations.
- Save the Children and GADRRRES partners to update the SAP Matrix every 12-24 months and review for changes in trends and patterns.
- Informed by SAP Matrix monitoring, every two years partners in CCDRR to select a specific strategic initiative to jointly promote for wider scale up.
- Working with GADRRRES, Save the Children to set-up a virtual forum discussion space where practitioners and researchers working on scaling up can share research, success stories and lessons and challenges, including a blog on scalability.