

Minimum Requirements for Rebuilding More Child-Friendly Schools

The Education Cluster advocates that schools should be built back better, more disaster resilient¹, safer and more child friendly.

The points below aim to outline some of the most basic elements that make schools more child-friendly places to learn. These are proposed as the very minimum requirements to be considered before building a new school.

Inside classroom

- Ventilation to allow air to circulate.
- Natural light. Windows placed to allow light even during rainy season. As many windows and as much natural light as possible according to the design of the building. Windows low enough for children to see out.
- Classroom space. Enough to allow for group work for at least 40 students in one classroom.
- Noise reduction. Walls/partitions to minimize noise as much as possible.
- Injury safe. No sharp edges or wood sticking out.
- Light and detachable furniture in order to easily arrange group work settings.

Outside classroom

- Water and sanitation facilities. Adequate (number and design) and separate toilets for boys, girls and teachers (if possible).
- Play ground. Simple, swing, see-saw, climbing structure with sandy ground. Some basic shelter from rain and sun desirable.
- Waste disposal area.
- Library.
- Safe entrance/ exit to the school and its buildings according to the environment and bearing in mind children's size and possible disabilities.

In addition

- Commitment for building a school should come with a commitment for furniture and materials, either from the same agency or in partnership with another.
- It is recommended that with handover of buildings to the Government or community that an agreement is signed that refers to regular basic safety checks and maintenance work being conducted eg. loose roofing, damaged floors, broken doors etc are repaired.

Education Cluster,
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¹ Disaster resilience guidance in Reference Documents section of Education Cluster webpage.