

Monsoon / Cyclone / Landslide / Flood

Key Messages for Temporary Learning Centre teachers and students

During the monsoon season, all students should be told, and regularly reminded of, the key messages in this document. Teachers should reinforce these messages regularly through role play, games and poems. All TLCs should have an Evacuation Plan in place, and practice it regularly with the students, likely in the form of a School Safety Drill.

Possible hazards near your TLC (FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS)

Be careful of any of these:

- Steep or unstable slopes.
- Loose soil, stones or boulders.
- Loose wires, cables & pipes that you could trip on.
- Bamboo sheeting coming loose.
- Ditches at the sides of pathways.
- Bridges.
- Areas with lots of rubbish or debris.
- Fuel tanks, generators or anything flammable.

Being prepared (FOR STUDENTS)

- It's important to understand the hazards we face here.
- It's important to learn all the many small things that we can do to make ourselves safer.
- It's ok to feel scared when thinking about these dangers.

Is it safe to go to school during monsoon season? (FOR STUDENTS)

- If there is rain, you should still try and come to the TLC.
- If there is lightning, thunder or strong wind, it is okay to stay at home.
- If there is flooding in between the TLC and your home, then you should stay at home. You can come back to the TLC as soon as there is a safe path to get there.
- TLCs should not be used as cyclone shelters, they are not strong enough. Do NOT come to the TLC if there is a cyclone coming!

TLC Evacuation (FOR STUDENTS)

- If you need to leave the TLC quickly, you need to be quiet and listen to the teacher.
- Use a 'buddy system' – leave the TLC in pairs and look out for one another.
- Leave your belongings behind – they are not worth your life!
- DON'T TALK – so you can hear your teacher
- DON'T RUN – so you don't get hurt
- DON'T PUSH – so no-one else gets hurt
- DON'T GO BACK – so you stay safe

What do we do if we are lost, or family members are missing? (FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS)

- Go the nearest CIC or to the site management office to report your situation.
- Today, select an emergency meeting place, which is a safe place where your family will meet if you can't get home during an emergency.
- Make sure you know full names of your caregivers, the location of your home, including camp and block.

How will we know if the TLC is closing? (FOR STUDENTS)

- Your teacher will tell you if your TLC is closing, and will continue to remind you when the final day is.
- Your teacher will recommend some home-based learning that you can do whilst your TLC is shut, or inform you of any mobile-learning teams that will be in your area. There may also be another TLC to go to.
- At home, practice what you've learned at your TLC (including handwriting, poems, numbers, alphabet).

Dangers of a cyclone/strong winds? (FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS)

- Wind can be strong enough to pick up and carry off bamboo, wood, tarpaulin and even metal sheets.
- The flying debris can injure people.
- If there is a lot of rain coming with the cyclone, it can also cause flooding and landslides.

How will you know when a cyclone is coming? (FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS)

- Volunteers who wear orange vests will be in the camp alerting people that a cyclone is coming.
- Teachers to remind students and parents of closure of TLC on a daily basis before the hazard event.
- If a 'general warning' is issued you should stay alert and take extra care to listen to messages on radio.
- If the situation develops and a severe storm or cyclone is moving towards this area, the camp safety volunteers and mosques will start disseminating and broadcasting a danger warning throughout the camp.
- When the cyclone is imminent, volunteers will use megaphones and sirens to raise great danger warning.
- When the great danger warning sirens go off, you should then take immediate cover.
- Do NOT seek shelter in a TLC – they are not strong enough to protect you!

How to prepare your TLC for cyclones and storms with high winds? (FOR TEACHERS)

- If the TLC has been identified as "at risk", make sure the TLC has been assessed by technical engineers for either reinforcement (sandbags, bamboo poles, tighter rope connections, drainage) or temporary closure.
- Strengthen the TLC: make sure the walls & roof are securely fixed in place, tied down with wire & rope.
- Ensure the TLC area has good drainage and slopes, pathways and access routes are cleared.
- Talk to the TLC's Community Education Committee and make sure you have a plan that looks after everyone. If there are vulnerable students or teachers, make sure they are looked after and will be safe.
- If your TLC has been identified as "high risk", its structural elements should be removed to ensure communities do not falsely identify it as a safe space to shelter from a cyclone.
- Clear any loose objects which could cause injury, especially loose metal sheeting, during high wind.

1 – 2 days before a cyclone:

- Listen for the warnings and messages.
- Put the TLC's belongings in a safe place, stored in a waterproof, sealed container and properly labeled.
- Ensure that the community understands TLCs are not safe locations during cyclones.
- Agree on a location where you will meet your family, in case you are separated.
- Identify the strongest available buildings, in the safest locations nearby, where you can take cover when the cyclone comes. It may be your own house.
- Strongest buildings: Look for solid walls and roofs that are strongly tied down to the ground with rope, and are in better wind-protected areas (not on the tops of hills), away from steep slopes and areas which might become flooded if there is also rain.
- Wrap your important personal belongings in plastic, and weigh them down with sandbags.

How will I know when it is safe to return to school? (STUDENTS)

- Your teacher will tell you and your parents when a TLC will re-open - announcements will be made throughout your entire community, don't come back to the TLC until you hear this announcement.

How can my child re-access a TLC if we move shelter locations? (PARENTS)

- Contact your nearest TLCs and enquire about available spaces.
- Speak to CIC and Education Committees to see what other TLCs are in the area, and if they have space.
- Put your child's name on any waiting lists, if necessary.
- Keep practicing classwork at home with your child until they can re-enroll.

CYCLONE KEY MESSAGES

- Stay informed by listening to the radio and follow any early warning instructions.
- When there are heavy rains or thunder roars, stay inside. Unplug anything electrical. Stay away from any water. Listen to weather instructions on the radio.
- Don't take cover near the top of hills, very steep slopes or in areas that may flood.
- Identify the strongest available buildings, in the safest locations nearby, where you can take cover when the cyclone comes. To find the strongest houses look for solid walls and roofs that are strongly tied down to the ground with rope, which are in better wind-protected areas (and not on the tops of hills), and away from steep slopes and areas which might become flooded.
- Ask your caregivers to check your home and make sure everything is tied down as strongly as possible!
- With your caregivers, start to design an "emergency kit". Try to make sure you have in a bag enough essential items, such as drinking water, food, candles and matches and necessary medicines.
- Plan with your family on where to meet in case you are not together.
- Wrap your important personal belongings in plastic and keep them safe.
- Cover supplies of food, water and fuel with plastic, tie it down and weigh it down with sandbags.
- If your home starts to break up, protect yourself with a mattress, rugs, blankets or tarpaulin.
- Stay low to the ground and take cover under something solid, like bamboo weighted down with sandbags. If you are exposed in the rain and wind, cover yourself with plastic sheets.
- Stay away from dangling or loose wires and electrical sockets.
- Stay indoors until the cyclone has passed. Remember, there is a short period of calm in the middle of a cyclone, before the cyclone continues. Stay indoors until official notice is given that it is safe to move

FLOOD KEY MESSAGES

- Stay away from flooded areas - even if it seems safe, the water may still be rising.
- If you come close to flood waters, stop, turn around and go another way.
- Move to higher ground if there is flooding in your area.
- Don't walk or play in flood water - It might be deeper than you think!
- Never try to walk, swim or dive into the water because it may be moving very fast. Less than six inches of fast moving flood water can knock people off their feet.
- If you are in a tom-tom, get out immediately and move to higher ground.
- Watch out for snakes in areas that were flooded.
- Throw away food that has come into contact with flood waters - eating it could make you very sick. Remember, flood water is unclean, unsafe and unhygienic!
- Drink boiled or chlorinated water and avoid using water from the tube wells at the flooded area
- Stay away from dangling or loose wires and electrical sockets

LANDSLIDE KEY MESSAGES

- Listen for unusual sounds like trees cracking or large rocks knocking together. Tilted trees, lots of mud and debris drifting in rivers and odd cracks, small or wide, can be a sign of an oncoming landslide. If you see anything, tell an adult immediately!
- Landslides and mudslides happen very fast and there may be very little time to act. Move away quickly from the path of the mudflow or landslide to another location as fast as you can.
- If you find any sign of a landslide near you home, move quickly to a safe location.
- Avoid river valleys and low-lying areas.
- If you can't escape, stay low, curl into a tight ball and cover your head with your hands and arms.
- Stay away from the landslide area. There may be additional landslides.
- If you see dangling or loose wires, stay away and tell an adult.