



"In the past we had no direction. Now we know what to do in times of danger." (Headteacher)

"We took the initiative and did it ourselves instead of waiting for the government to do it." (Deputy)

"In our club we planted maize so the produce can help us make money to buy things for school such as books. We planted trees ... they bring fresh air for breathing and protect our school against strong winds." (Learner in an after-school club)

Education is one of the most powerful tools for tackling climate change. Recognised by the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, it equips people to adapt, shape climate solutions, support a green economy and drive responsible action¹. Link's Resilient Schools approach aligns with UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development framework, helping deliver SDG 4.7 and SDG 13. Research consistently shows that education is a highly effective, cost-effective adaptation strategy², and that closing gender gaps in education makes countries more resilient to climate impacts³.

Link's award-winning approach:

1. Climate adaptation and resilience is embedded within **Green School Improvement Plans** driving participatory action to protect schools and keep children learning
2. After-school clubs support knowledge exchange across peer groups and communities and encourage learner engagement in climate action
3. Inclusive hazard maps show communities where dangers lie
4. Inclusive early-warning drills keep everyone safe in a climate emergency
5. Gender and Disability (GEDSI) are rooted throughout the approach
6. Advocacy promotes education and climate integration

Experience:

1. SIPs – Green School Improvement Planning

Schools are required by governments to create annual School Improvement Plans. A **Green School Improvement Plan** helps schools identify and implement locally led solutions to climate-related challenges so that learning can continue during and after climate events.

By including climate risks in annual planning, schools can take proactive steps to reduce disruption. For example, they may improve drainage to reduce flooding, strengthen buildings against storms or develop emergency response procedures. This planning helps schools become more resilient, protects learners and staff, reduces damage to infrastructure, and enables education to continue when climate-related disruptions occur.

The plan helps schools **prepare before a climate event happens**, making them safer and better able to maintain or restore learning after a climate event.

2. After-school clubs

Teacher-led clubs equip students with practical skills to prevent, prepare for, and recover from climate events. Using government resources and local knowledge, students lead activities such as tree planting, school gardens, and waste management. They then share what they learn through songs, drama, and poetry, spreading climate awareness across the school and wider community.

¹ International Panel on Climate Change, 2018

² <https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development/what-is-esd>

³ E.g. Malala Foundation 2021, Brookings Institute, UNESCO, Population Council, Echidna Giving



3. Inclusive hazard mapping

Participatory hazard mapping enables all voices within the school community to share how a climate event impacts them. A map is drawn with danger zones indicated. The map is displayed in a public place and attention given to hazardous areas.

4. Early-warning drills and child-safety

Government-approved early warning signals and drills are shared across the school community ensuring everyone knows what to do in a climate emergency. Consideration is given to learners with disabilities – is sign language required, are audible signals appropriate, are exit points accessible? If schools are to be used as an emergency hub, do gender segregated areas exist, is menstrual support available, is there clean water? Child safety is paramount.

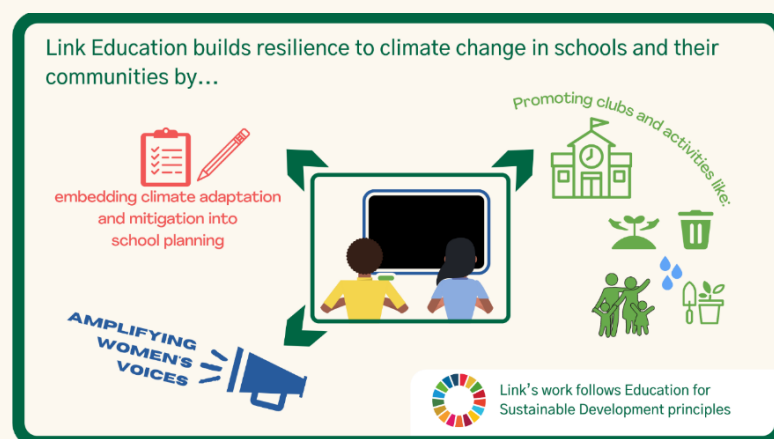
5. Gender and Disability (GEDSI)

Every activity embeds GEDSI (Gender Equity Disability Social Inclusion), from ensuring children with disabilities are included in the hazard mapping exercise to having girls as leaders in climate actions. Collaboration with Organisations of People with Disabilities and government disability fora promote inclusive climate action across the district and dismantle siloed working in government departments.

6. Advocacy

Working with local communities, key climate action messages are delivered in accessible formats. Local artists paint murals onto external school walls showing prevention, response and recover activities informing learners and passing community members of responsible climate actions they can take. Radio jingles are aired in local languages across community and national radio stations. Impact is shared at national and international education and climate steering groups and networks, such as COP and New York Climate Week calling for more coordination and financing across the education and climate nexus.

Link's approach ensures children, young people and their communities are **informed and can make responsible choices** to protect themselves, their homes and the planet.



About Link: Read more about Link Education on our [website](#)

More detail on our education and climate programme can be found [here](#)

This approach was selected as an [Education for Planetary Health winner](#) by The HundrED and The Villars Institute

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