Learning about Disasters and Remaining Safe
Foreword

This interactive illustrative story book is developed under UNESCO’s regular programme entitled “capacity development for disaster risk reduction and conflict resolution through peace and human rights education”. The purpose of this publication is to help younger children understand disaster and remain prepared about what to do and what not to do prior to, during and after the disaster. The situations outlined in this publication are expected to promote ideas of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) especially amongst children. It has adapted the work of Mr. Justin Edward Sharpe, a researcher and an activist engaged in developing and promoting education for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in United Kingdom. All the comics, story lines and montages/scenes were created by Mr. Justin Edward Sharpe while the characters were created by Mr. John A Abbott of Jot Studios.

Today’s children bear a disproportionate share of the impact of disasters, both in the immediate and longer-term. Children are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster impacts, while those living in marginal environment and situation of poverty are more vulnerable still. One of the most tragic aspects of the 8 October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan was the death of a large number of school-age children whose lives could have been saved had they been educated about DRR. Hence, development of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) learning interactive materials especially for children is of immense importance.

The distribution of this publication to different schools in disaster prone areas of Pakistan will immensely contribute to raising awareness amongst the masses. It will definitely serve as an effective advocacy tool across the country.

Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata
Director/Representative
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Introducing the Characters...

Bablu

Silly Bablu is so-called because he gets hurt by hazards when he is unsure what to do! But he does LEARN! Which is not Silly!
Rubi & Mani

Bablu’s friends are nice but not always very wise! They are often seen playing with Bablu when he does something Silly!
His Family

Bablu lives with his Amma, Dada Abu & his beloved Dog, Moti! They love him, but are not very wise when it comes to disaster preparation!
Mystery Girl

The mystery girl is the new girl in the neighbourhood who also knows Disaster Risk Reduction as much as Disaster Master.
Disaster Master

Disaster Master Ali looks after Bablu, especially when he has hurt himself!
But Bablu doesn’t know he does!
Ali has knowledge about Disaster Risk Reduction, that can help!
I think I should shelter from the rain under this tree while this thunder storm passes.

Silly Bablu, you know you shouldn't hide under a tree in a thunder storm! Lightning can kill... I won't always be around to revive you, although CPR* would work too!

CPR* can revive victims of lightning strike!

* CPR = Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
I’m looking forward to dinner!

Seconds later...

*EARTHQUAKE*

Well done Bablu, not so silly... although your dinner is ruined, you are not!!

REMEMBER: in an earthquake, DROP, COVER & HOLD ON!
Later that night...

What a day! lightning, an earthquake & no dinner...

*EARTHQUAKE*

Oh silly Bablu! “If an earthquake strikes while you’re in bed, stay where you are and cover your head!”
The morning after the quake...

After a VERY strange day & night, I’m going to meet my friend to check out damage in the neighbourhood after the quake!

Woah, Rubi! Check out that fallen tree, & look the burst water main!

Erm...not sure if that is a good idea Bablu...

Oh silly Bablu! After an earthquake or storm, fallen trees can cut power lines which when mixed with water can shock & even kill!

And keep pets away too!
After Bablu’s recent adventures & after checking that there were no electricity cables by the water, he decided to play in it as it was so hot outside...

Later that day...

Yay! Food... I’m so hungry

Woo-hoo... fries are my favourite!

That evening...

Oh Bablu, why did you play in the water... so many diseases!

Ooh... I don’t feel so good

*Grumble*

NOTE: Never play in burst water, or flood water as it may contain sewerage! And... ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS!
Woah! A Tornado! That is so cool! I've gotta film this for YouTube! It'll get so many hits... I'll be famous!

30 seconds later...

Aarrgh! I've changed my mind! Got to get away! H-E-L-P-!
I'm getting under this bridge!!

Oh Silly Bablu! When a Tornado Roars, Get indoors! A bridge makes the wind even faster & all that it carries can damage you! Lay down flat & cover your head!
Today nothing can happen to me! I’m wearing my Anti-Disaster costume!

Seconds later...

LOOK OUT!

Even if you are dressed up make sure you are alert to the world around you!
Silly Bablu!

PS: TAKE CARE CROSSING THE STREET
There's another thunder storm! I won't go under a tree! I should be safe if the storm is six miles away. I need to count the seconds between the FLASH and the BANG!!

Here goes... 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8...
And there's the bang! Eight miles!
I must be safe! Phew!

Oh Silly Bablu! 6 miles is a safe distance. But 5 seconds = 1 mile! You need to count to 30 seconds between the flash & bang to be a safe distance!

And REMEMBER: Don't play outside until 30 minutes after the last bang.
CPR* can revive unfortunate Bablu

*bling*

Err... thanks to CPR*
I'm alive!

Later, in class..

Today class, we will learn about the Lightning Crouch

Now, crouch down & let your ankles touch together. If lightning strikes the ground it should travel in one foot, connect with your ankle & out again!

Ow! This takes PRACTICE!

See: www.edu4hazards.org/lightning.html for more advice

* CPR = Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
Today, it is just me & Moti! No clouds, no lightning, tornados or anything. Plus... I look rather sharp in my Anti-Disaster costume!

*SULK*
What about me? I'm ALWAYS here!! Grr! I'm off!

Woah! Who is that? She has a REALLY cool cape too... Okay act cool Bablu!

Bablu doesn't look at what is around him and...

Oww! that REALLY hurt! I guess the hole must be there from the earthquake AND I lost my cape!! Grr!

Oh, poor Bablu! Perhaps I should help him!
Seconds Later...

*YAWN* what did I miss?

Woah Dude, Are you alright?

*Guilty* I hope you get better!

A bit sore...

Hey Mani, who is that girl?

BLUSH* His friend is here now, I'm going to leave...

She's new! I think her family just moved here.

Later that night...

I wonder who the girl with cool cape is?

*EARTHQUAKE*

I'm not moving! “If an earthquake strikes & you’re in bed, stay where you are & cover your head” advice from Disquirer Master!!

It can save your life!
It is weekend & Bablu is at the beach...

*EARTHQUAKE*

I'd better get out, some of the building have fallen down!

10 minutes later...

Woah! That is not a normal wave!

Oh Silly Bablu! "If there is an earthquake and you are by the sea or lake you need to get away, up high & safe!"

NB: Earthquakes can cause, tsunami's water which can move far inland! Get to higher ground immediately!
After the Tsunami...

Oh no! Poor Bablu

*Bling*

I must rescue him & revive him!

I'm alive!

And you floated in on a door & I revived you using basic First Aid techniques

*THUD!*

Wow! Thanks!
Evening at Bablu’s House...

*Amma jan look Moti is asleep already!*

Yummy Bone

Seconds later...

*EARTHQUAKE*

Growl! Whine!

Duck, cover & hold on

After an earthquake, your dog might be scared and react as if they are angry! Let an adult comfort them before you do.

Ouch!

*Woof*

*SNAP*

Poor Bablu!
Oh, why is there a sign on the beach... So boring...

DANGER! Quicksand!

Uh-oh! Something is NOT right

Oh, Silly Bablu! not again!

H-E-L-P-! SOMEBODY!

SUDDENLY...

Sheesh! Where did SHE come from?

Hang on Bablu! I'm coming! I'll get you out! Keep still if you can!

Always pay attention to your surroundings, including notices at the beach!
In the previous episode, Bablu ignored warnings on the beach & is now in trouble...

DANGER!
Quicksand!

Hold on Bablu... I'll save you!

If she can't help, I will...

Bablu, when I said hold on, I meant it! Hold on to this broom! Quickly now!

Hnh!

*HEAVE*

Minutes later...

That's okay! But read the sign next time, okay!!

Wow... thanks, you saved me!

*PUFF!
*PANT!!

And I didn't need to use magic!
And in local news, severe rainfall may lead to flooding. Stay tuned for more information...

Goodnight Bablu

Good night AmmaJee

That night Bablu slept soundly...

But in the morning...

Wooah! There’s water everywhere?

Listening to the news on the TV or radio might help you be better prepared for the effects of flooding!
After last night’s flood...

Wow! There’s water everywhere, Dude!

Hey! Look there’s a cat stuck in a tree!

Don’t worry, Mano! We will rescue you!

But who will rescue us...

Seriously, Bablu! Be careful...

In shallower water an arm is offered...

Quick Bablu! Link arms, You too, Mani!

I’m off!
When Bablu & Mani get into trouble, their new friend helps out...

Link arms and pull together!

*HEAVE*

And...

We're alive!

Bablu's friends, working together helped each other to survive!

Later...

Hi, I'm Sana!

I'm Mani & this is Bablu, thanks for helping us out Sana!

NB: Flood water is dangerous! It only takes 30 cm to knock a fully grown man down!
Bablu & Sana are helping out in their town...

I've been looking after these trees in the neighborhood!

And when it rains, the trees soak it up & their roots help stop landslides!

Meanwhile...

...in the town over

The trees have been chopped down & the heavy rains and steep slopes, have made a dangerous mudslide.. H-E-L-P-!

Is that Disaster Master I see? And can he save the girl from disaster? See next time...
Because our trees have been chopped down, heavy rains & steep slopes have caused a mudslide. H-E-L-P!

Move away to safer place. We will mobilize people to plant trees on this hill...

All over the mountain

“Let these trees, bring the mudslide to its knees!”

*GROW*

*RUMBLE*

*GROW*
**Whoah! That volcano erupted!!!**

**There is no way I am hanging around. No photo’s on my phone!* I’m out of here...**

**Uh-oh! The gas cloud is getting close... I’ll duck below it... *Cough!* *Splutter!***

**Oh Silly Bablu! Dangerous gases from a volcano may be invisible and heavier than the air around them. By dropping to the ground you put yourself closer to them and danger!**

*See episode five...*
In the last episode Bablu tried to avoid gasses from volcano by ducking low to the ground but volcano gasses are heavier than air so this is very dangerous!

time to save Bablu again...

*SPLUTTER*
I'm alive! Yay!
*Cough*

Phew! I don't know how or *Cough* why....

*SPLUTTER*
I am getting out of here right now!

Yes, but we know why, don't we readers..?

A certain, rather smart Disaster Master...

That is the most sensible thing he has said...
After Bablu’s narrow escape from the volcano, he returns home...

What’s wrong with Moti?

*BARK*

*Whine!*

The volcano is noisy & there have been lot of earthquakes.

A short time later...

Residents are advised to evacuate & gather at Disaster Management centers...

Gulp... what about meeee??

Beta, pack your bag with necessary items

Er... I've got some stuff

I wish we had talked about this before... I'm so unprepared!

Beta! You can only take one soft toy & a game... *SIGH*
When the volcano erupted, Bablu and his family had to evacuate to Disaster Management Camp. It is in school hall! The class teacher from his school was there to welcome them...

Hello, Bablu! Welcome!

Even though Bablu is wearing his anti-disaster costume, he is feeling a little afraid... and Ammi is really busy and stressed...

I don't really like sleeping with others... and I miss Moti!

Hey Bablu! I'm glad to see you, I'm missing my cat, Mano, but I bought a photo... Look!

But then...

And then Mano got stuck in a tree in the flood...

Hey, Sana swap pet stories...

And so, because of good friendship, the nights in the camp were ok... But he still missed Moti!
Moti’s Adventure...

Hurry up! Bablu!

But Amma... what about Moti?

On the night Bablu had to be evacuated because of volcano...

Five minutes later...

Abu Jee, I contacted an out of town animal shelter. Take Moti & meet us at the shelter.

Okay!

Later, at the Animal Shelter Moti is scared...

Moti, walkies

Perhaps if he has his own toys that smell of home...

Suddenly, Dada Abu remembers...

“GROWL”

Here’s his favourite ball!

REMEMBER! Plan for pets too!
After the volcano erupted, Bablu & Moti were separated...

Bablu is impatient to go...

Later in that Day...

Bye Bablu, see you at school!
I’m going to get Moti now, I can’t wait!

I think Bablu has missed Moti more!

Amma Jee! Hurry up! Moti will have missed us!

Thank you for all your help and support, you have helped Bablu by telling him stories!

You’re welcome!

Ms. Shella - Bablu’s class teacher

Moti Woo-Hoo!

Yip! Yip! Yip!
The school was damaged by earthquakes and was not open. But Bablu sneaked in.

Woah! What a mess!

Wow! No teachers! Yeah, I can run in the corridors!

Suddenly...

*Earthquake*

Oh Silly Bablu! You should not play in places damaged by an earthquake, even if it doesn't look bad! Aftershocks can kill!
Brr! It's cold, wet & dark! I'm going to watch my favourite TV shows!

Suddenly...

Woah! Lightning! Glad I am not under that tree!

Bablu learned this in Episode one!

Waaah! Lightning struck the TV antenna! No TV now! Harumph!

REMEMBER! If there is a lightning storm, unplug electricals from the wall - including TV's, PC etc!
Bablu can’t watch TV because lightning strike blew it up, so he decides to have a bath!

But... suddenly Bablu remembers something from School about lightning.!

Woah! Lightning! The pipes might conduct the electricity to me!

Oh Silly Bablu! You were right about lightning but be careful not to slip when you get out of a bath!

PS: Don’t have a bath in a lightning storm!
Late at night & Bablu is awakened...

*BEEP* *BEEP* *BEEP*

Waah! That's the smoke alarm?

Bablu leaps out of bed...

*BEEP* *BEEP* *BEEP*

Waah! Fire! Help!

*BEEP* *BEEP*

Ouch! Hot! The door handle!

If there is a fire, NEVER, grab the door handle, gently touch with the back of your hand.
In the last episode, Bablu was awoken by the smoke alarm...

There’s smoke from under the door... I know what I need! A wet towel...

Okay, now to call the Fire Department!

Bablu doesn’t have a towel, but makes some clothes wet with drinking water and shoves them in the gap!

Hello! I need the Fire Deptt. My address is...

Bablu uses his smartphone...

Bablu had learned what to do at school...

Next, Bablu opened the window and shouted for help!

HELP! FIRE!

I’m so proud! Bablu saves himself! *sigh*
After the fire...

Bablu’s quick thinking saved us all from the fire last night.

I think he deserves a reward! A little gift, maybe...

Later...

Yaay! A party!

I have washed my hands!

Bablu was not so silly after all!
Me & Moti are going outside to play in the garden! Bye!

Alright, Beta have fun!

Oh Silly Bablu! "Watch where you tread, Or end up with a sore head!"

Remember! Keep your garden tidy!
Bablu! Abu Jee! We need a family meeting! We must plan better for all these hazards in disaster prone areas.

Wait Amma! I need to get something first!

What is more important than a safe family? Grr! Hurry up!

Two minutes later...

With my Anti-Disaster costume, I am ready to face anything!

Oh Bablu!
We need to make a family disaster plan, starting with an emergency kit!

I really don't see what all the fuss is about...

In the park... the following day...

I learned about some of this at school. We need: A flashlight, water, blankets, food... oh & pet food!

And I said to them, "We must be prepared and make a plan together..."

With age, comes true wisdom! Good to see you taking the lead with your family!
Bablu & family are learning to plan for hazards together...

It says here to let everyone know how to shut gas off... especially after an earthquake...

Bablu & Amma Jee look together...

GAS VALVE

So, why do I need to know... you don't normally like me to touch things that might be dangerous...

Well normally that is the case. If you smelled gas & I'm here, come & tell me! BUT, if I am not, you now know what to do!
Bablu is in a silly mood & is showing off in the railway station...

Suddenly...

Oh yeah! Gangnam Style

Waah!! H-E-L-P I'm falling!

*Z-A-P-*

Let's get him to hospital, electrocution is very dangerous...

NEVER, EVER play near the railway tracks!
At the hospital...

Well, I got the REAL shock!!

Bablu, you gave me such a shock! Sniff!

Later, Dada Abu explains...

You could have died Bablu! Your Amma was very upset...

Amma Jee! I'm so sorry for upsetting you

Okay, but never again, okay?

Okay, Amma jee!

I hope so readers!
We now have an Emergency Go-Bag, but we also need to help Moti be prepared too!

I can cover him with my Anti-Disaster cape.... Oh Yeah!

He will need more than that! What if you are not here, or we get separated for a while?

I'll put this new collar and I.D. tag on him! It has our address & telephone number!

I'm making a list of our neighbours who could look after Moti in an emergency...

Bablu also remembers...

Amma Jee, I think we need to have an Emergency Bag for Moti with food, water and some of his favourite toys to help him stay calm....
Bablu is collecting food together for a home Emergency Kit...

I've found tinned food like peaches, & stew...

Make sure they are low in salt, or you'll be more thirsty & use water up in an emergency!

But Moti wants to play...

M-O-T-I-!
N-O-S-T-O-P-!

*CRACK!*

Ouch!

But Moti is too excited and...

I'll fix Bablu! readers!
After using the toilet, Bablu gives his hands a quick rinse with water...

Sana washes her hands thoroughly using soap & water...

They both eat lunch...

But later on...

*I’m going outside to play*

But Silly Bablu is back in the bathroom...

*I don’t feel so good...*

ALWAYS wash your hands with soap & water! Singing two verses of ‘Happy Birthday’ is enough time!
Bablu & Mani are playing in the snow on the mountainside...

Suddenly...

*RUMBLE*

Avalanche!!

*BABLU*

*WOOSH*

Bablu & Mani make swimming motions to try & stay near the top of the snow...

And when it stops...

Bablu & Mani try and stick their legs out of the snow to be seen and take a DEEP BREATH IN, before the snow completely settles so they have enough room to breathe while they wait to be rescued...
Bablu & Sana are on the way to school...

Bablu in not paying attention & steps into the road...

Bablu tells Sana not to worry...

Cars will always stop if you step out... I have done it lots of times!

*SCREECH*

But later on...

A driver doesn't see Bablu...

*CRASH*

Oh Bablu! why didn't you listen.. maybe I can help you with what I've learned..!

Oh Silly Bablu!
Hey Mani, why are you dropping your litter on the floor?

And anyway, that man is paid to pick it up!

Oh, it doesn’t really matter, there’s already so much!

But over time it blocks the drains...

And when it rains...

It can make floods worse...

Please don’t be a litter bug!
Bablu & Amma Jee are watching the news when...

And in local news, disaster prone areas residents need to prepare as wildfire is moving towards the residential areas...

Family meeting!

The family gets prepared!

I've an Emergency Go-Bag ready

I've checked that the Fire Extinguishers are working & in date!

Well done Bablu & family!

And my friends and I are going to help clear each others yards, making sure that dead leaves are cleaned away from our houses!
In the last episode Bablu’s family began to prepare as wildfire approaches...

But Bablu doesn’t share his feelings...

And decides to hide...

Luckily Amma finds him & explains why you should not hide...

This wildfire is a bit scary!

We need to know where you are, so we can ALL leave if we need to!

Okay Amma! I have my Anti-Disaster costume to help me be brave!

Disaster Master says: If you are feeling scared try and talk to an adult so they can help you be brave too!

But Bablu is a little worried as the news and the internet talk of nothing else..
After the wildfire, which luckily missed Bablu’s house, he has gone camping with his Dada Abu!

Why does it ALWAYS rain when you go camping?

Suddenly, in the distance, but getting closer there is a loud rumble…

Oh not ANOTHER thunder storm!

The rumbling is getting close, very quickly… FLASH FLOOD! Get to higher ground now!

Dada Abu’s knowledge and quick actions saved the day!

Yay! We’re safe!

I will make sure they get home safe readers!

*Quack*
Bablu is playing outside when suddenly there is an explosion & a large cloud is blown towards where he lives...

*Humm!* Disaster prone area’s residents are advised to stay indoors, close windows and doors...

Duh! Like we didn’t know that. TV thinks we are stupid...

Ah Bablu! You’re so funny!

Disaster prone area’s residents are also advised to shut off any air conditioning, to keep outside air out and...

Waah! Quick! Turn it off!!

Later...

I’m sorry TV, I will NEVER doubt you again!