



SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-7)

AGENDA ITEM 11.2

Enabling Children and Youth Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness through Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction Education

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Purpose of the Paper

- To provide update to the Council on the WMO recent activities in developing the capacities of children to climate change and disaster risk reduction through the COPE initiative.
- To encourage the Council Members to support inclusion of content related to disaster risk reduction and response to early warning into school curricula.
- To recommend to the Council to endorse the risk education program for children to strengthen community resilience.



Background

1

billion

Children at extremely high risk of the impacts of climate change.

5x

More extreme events will be experienced by children in 3° warming scenario.

85%

Of children live in low-middle-income countries vulnerable to climate change.



Background

**50-
60%**

Of all impacted
by disasters are
children.

**43.1
million**

Internal
displacements
of children
linked to
weather-related
disasters.

89%

Of young
Australians are
worried about
the effects of
climate change.

Updates

WMO's outreach activities to develop the capacities of children to climate change and disaster risk reduction

COPE initiative





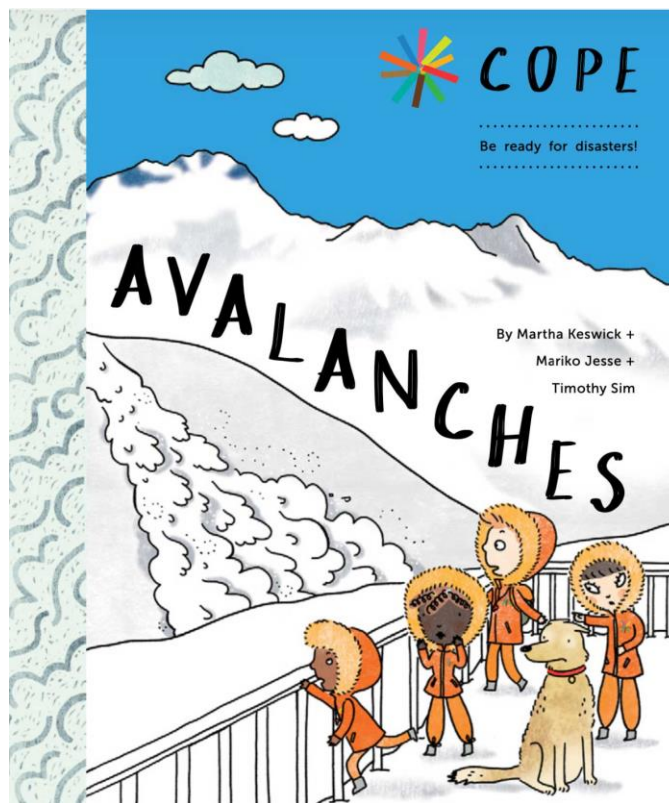
Updates – Highlights within the Pacific



The United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres launched the first distribution of the Tongan version of the Cyclone COPE series at the 53rd Session of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

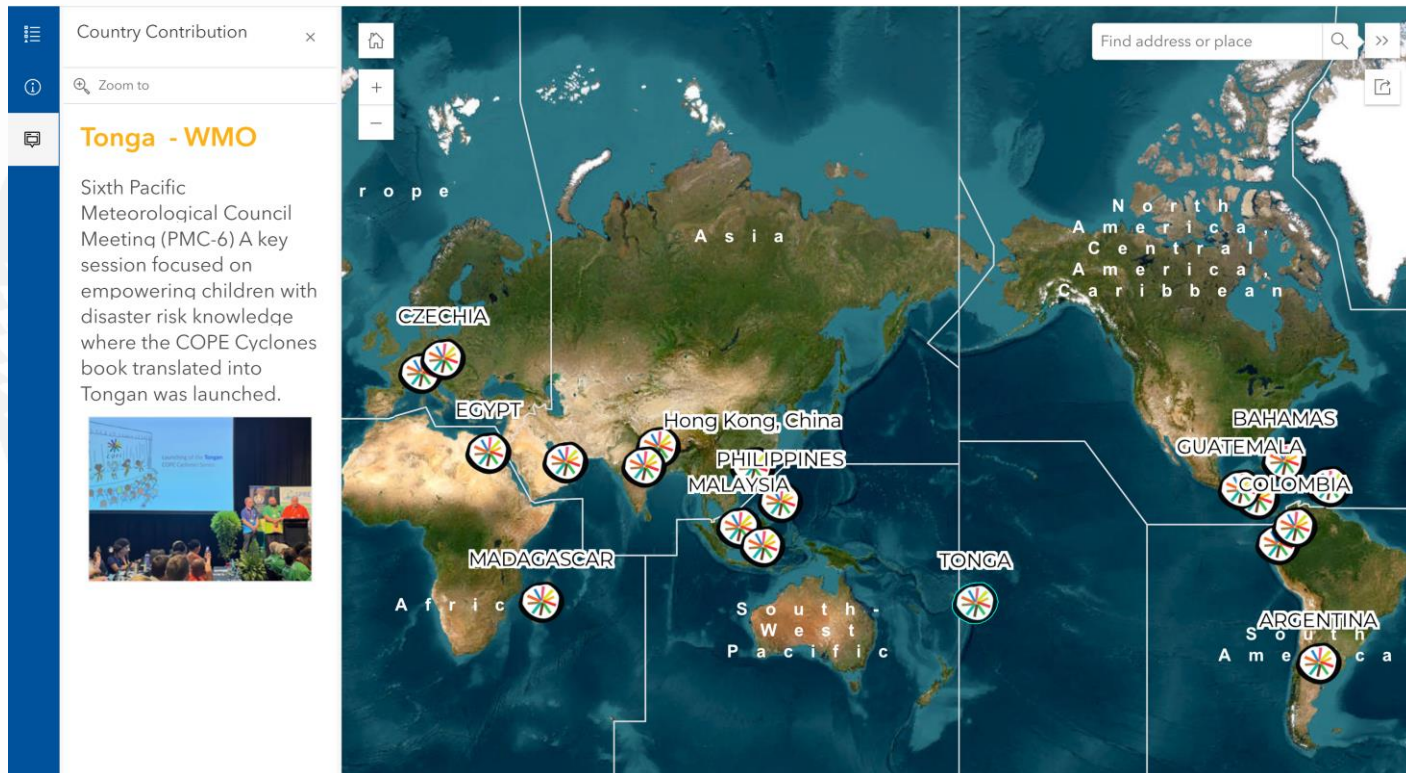


Updates – Highlights within the Pacific



New Zealand Met Service took lead on the publication of the Avalanches series in collaboration with UNICEF New Zealand, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, indigenous group, and schools.

Updates – Highlights within the Pacific



The COPE initiative was recognized as a vessel for empowering children with risk knowledge by the 6th Pacific Meteorological Council. The translation of the COPE series to local PICTs' languages is listed as one of the priority tasks of the Weather Ready Pacific workplan.



Updates – Global Highlights

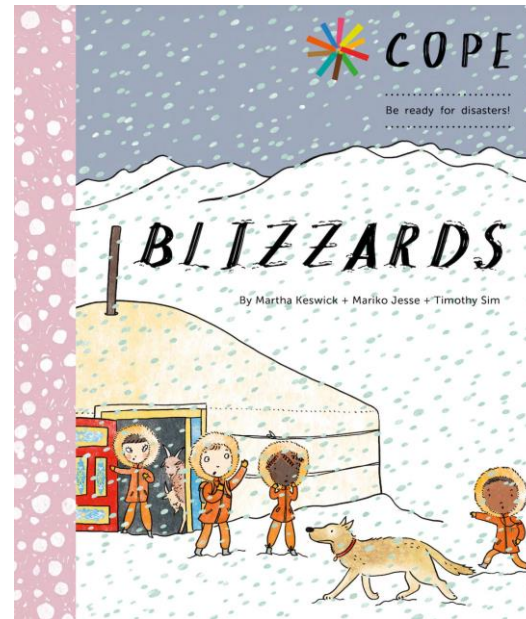
COPE initiative was promoted in the 18th UN Climate Change Conference of Youth (**COY18**) and **COP28** with the theme to discover children's unique role as powerful channels for driving DRR vital information through communities. The discussion covered topics such as understanding values in climate decisions, leveraging social media for early warnings, and addressing disinformation challenges.



Updates – Global Highlights



The 'train the trainer' program was launched in Latin America with a set of manuals to complement the illustrated storybooks to increase children's resilience to disasters.



Blizzards book was launched during International Disaster Risk Reduction Day on 13 October 2023 in cooperation with Mongolia Met Service, UNICEF Mongolia and UNICEF East Asia and Pacific.



Madagascar Met Service translated the books into Malagasy language and launched with Ministry of Education in March 2024



Gaps and Challenges

- There are still gaps in the capacity building to empower children with disaster risk knowledge so as to build their own and their communities' resilience, especially in the SIDS:
 - Limited access to information on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation through school curricula to all children;
 - Limited number of schools constructed or retrofitted to be disaster resilient;
 - Limited training or learning platforms are accessible;



Recommendations

- The Meeting is invited to:
 - **Acknowledge** the increasing need of improving children awareness and involvement in weather, climate, water, disaster risk reduction and related environmental action;
 - **Note** the outreach activities of the COPE initiative;
 - **Reaffirm** the COPE initiative as a vessel to integrate multi-hazard early warning and disaster risk reduction into education systems;
 - **Recognise with appreciation** the initial support by Weather Ready Pacific for the translation of the COPE Series to the official languages of a number of Pacific Countries;
 - **Support** the translation of the COPE Series to all Pacific languages and the development of risk education programs for schools in the Pacific through Pacific funding modalities such as Weather Ready Pacific.



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Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



WORLD
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Tankiu Tumas

