

Stage 4: Construct

What to consider before you begin checklist

Safety and building abilities

How will skilled tradespeople and local labourers gain sufficient training and practice in new techniques, so they don't fall back into traditional practices?

Skilled tradespeople in the community who have engaged in construction for many years may struggle with new techniques. Training should include hands-on exercises and on-site apprenticeships to change behaviour. These techniques can be reviewed at the start of each construction workday.

What level of oversight is needed to ensure construction follows hazard-resistant school design?

If the local community does not have technical experts who can monitor the construction process, the program manager will need to engage an external construction monitoring process alongside community monitoring.

How will construction safety be addressed?

Protecting construction workers is essential during the construction process. Health and safety procedures must be followed at all times and inspected on a daily basis. The construction site must be properly secured and guarded to ensure community members, especially children, cannot injure themselves.

Openness

Do communities have a system for monitoring construction and reporting problems?

Mobile phones enable daily monitoring of construction. Community members (such as the school management committee) can instantly report problems or wrongdoings using SMS or other mobile technology to call inspectors or agency representatives to the site. While communities can support construction monitoring, they rarely have the expertise to ensure construction complies with all the design and national standards. It is the program manager's duty to ensure construction compliance. This is typically done through third-party construction monitoring.

Is the transfer of funds sufficiently tied to independent construction monitoring?

Payment for the next stage of construction should occur only after an independent inspection shows that construction meets the design intent and is of high quality. All people involved (construction workers, the school management committee and the program manager) must agree on what requirements need to be met for payment at each stage, and who will confirm that these requirements have been met. Field experience shows that withholding the last 15 per cent of the contract until the final inspection is sufficient, so that roof connections and other important activities are completed during the last stage of construction.

Can the hazard-resistant features be displayed for site visitors using signs or even a small model of the school?

Site orientation can educate the wider community about hazard-resistant construction techniques. It explains how these techniques can be transferred to other projects, such as housing. Construction site displays can help visitors and students review safety concepts as they watch the school building take shape.

Sustainability

How will the project team recognise and reward skilled labourers who become trained in hazard-resistant techniques during and after the project?

If trained tradespeople are not properly recognised or motivated, they may not continue hazard-resistant construction techniques. Certifications (linked to local training institutions) and support in promoting their new skills can encourage their continued use of the techniques.

Can hazard-resistant features remain visible to the community as a reminder of the school's safety features?

Features such as braces, connectors and ring beams can be painted bright colours or labelled to turn a safe school into a permanent teaching tool on hazard-resistant construction.