

Stage 3: Design

Advantages, Challenges and Strategies

Advantage	Challenge	Strategy
Ensures community needs and values guide the project	The design stage may be seen as too technical for community involvement	Use culturally appropriate language to communicate design alternatives. Clarify how community involvement in design helps the school address local concerns and preferences while maintaining safety as the top priority.
Builds a common vision and a sense of ownership in the school	Community consultation may lengthen project times and increase the costs of the design stage	Develop a limited set of design alternatives or a modular design that allows communities to make decisions about layout in ways that do not result in major changes to structure.
Transfers hazard-resistant design principles to community	Housing and other community construction is substantially different to school design	Safer school construction may not be possible with local materials. Where possible, try and select a design and material that is similar to what is used for housing. If the school materials or construction techniques cannot be duplicated for housing and other local construction, provide separate training to address the community's needs.
Design team gains skills in community engagement	Design team deterred by the extra effort in a collaborative design process	Develop training programs for the design team to help them communicate with communities more effectively. Ensure the project schedule allows extra time for consulting with the community.
Local authorities improve their knowledge of hazard-resistant design	Fears that a community-based design process undermines the power of local authorities	Invite local authorities to design reviews or to join the school management committee. Seek approval for design (compulsory where regulatory authorities exist).