

A User's Guide to the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction

What are the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction?

Developed in a widely consultative manner under the leadership of the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) at the World Bank, and in partnership with the Coalition for Global School Safety and Disaster Prevention Education, the IASC Education Cluster and the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, these Guidance Notes provide a framework of guiding principles and general steps to develop a context-specific plan to address a critical gap to reaching the Education for All (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through the disaster resilient construction and retrofitting of school buildings. The guidance notes briefly address the need and rationale for safer school buildings; recommend a series of suggested steps that highlight key points that should be considered when planning a safer school construction and/or retrofitting initiative; and identify basic design principles and requirements a school building must meet to provide a greater level of protection. Finally, the Guidance Notes provide a list of key resources for more detailed, technical and context-specific information.

Why are the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction important?

At a time when the frequency and magnitude of extreme climatic events is rising, a growing number of the world's school-going children are increasingly exposed to earthquakes, wildfires, floods, cyclones, landslides and other natural hazards. Indeed, although children spend up to 50 percent of their waking hours in school facilities, all too often schools are not constructed or maintained to be disaster resilient. The death of children and adults in these schools causes irreplaceable loss to families, communities and countries and life-long injury to millions of children around the world. The time to say NO MORE to these preventable deaths is NOW; every new school must be constructed as a safer school and existing unsafe schools must be retrofitted to be disaster resilient. The EFA and MDG goals will not be achieved without the construction of safer and more disaster resilient education facilities.

Who Should Use the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction?

- Policymakers and planners of local, regional and national government bodies
- Bi- and multilateral donor agencies
- United Nations agencies
- Disaster management organizations
- NGOs and community-based organisations
- Engineers, architects, planners and construction managers
- Academic institutions and educators
- Education sector groups and/or clusters

How should the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction be used?

These Guidance Notes can be adapted to the local context and used to:

- Guide discussion, planning and design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of school construction, including strengthening Education Sector Plans and to develop National Action Plan for Safe Schools
- Inform the design of training and capacity building on safer school construction
- Inform collaborative advocacy on issues related to safer school construction

How can I give feedback to improve the Guidance Notes?

This is an evolving document that will be revised to include new and appropriate research, insights and practices, thereby maintaining its relevancy and usefulness. INEE requests feedback on the relevance and applicability of these Guidance Notes in order to inform a future update; see the *Feedback Form* on the back of this letter. For more information, go to: www.ineesite.org/safer-schoolconstruction.

Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction

FEEDBACK FORM

Thank you for sharing your experience using the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction. This feedback will inform an update of and strategy for promotion of these Guidance Notes. **Please fill in this questionnaire and return it to the INEE Secretariat at info@ineesite.org¹.**

Date:
 Name:
 Organisation and job title:
 Address:
 Phone/fax:
 E-mail:

1. Please list the ways in which you or your organization have used the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction. Be as specific as possible and include the ways (if any) in which you adapted the Guidance Notes to your context and to the work of your project/ organization/ coordination structure etc.

2. What challenges have you encountered while using the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction and how did you overcome or work around them?

3. Can you share any lessons learned and/or examples of good practice from your experience using the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction? What has been the impact of using the Guidance Notes to address school construction issues?

4. Based on your experience, what additional information and/or tools could be added to the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction to facilitate the planning of safer school initiatives.

5. Please provide any additional comments or feedback on the Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction:

¹ Additional information on the issue of Safer School Construction, for example in the form of a longer case study, is welcome and would be compiled and shared on the INEE website for wide readership. Contact: info@ineesite.org