SECOND MEETING OF SAFE SCHOOL LEADERS
4-5 October 2015, Tehran, I.R. Iran

REPORT

SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL

November 2015
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FINAL REPORT

November 2015
# SECOND MEETING OF SAFE SCHOOL LEADERS
## SUMMARY REPORT

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The Second meeting of Safe School Leaders was held on 4-5 October 2015 in Tehran, I.R. Iran. The meeting benefited from the participation of the First Vice President of I.R. Iran and 24 Governments represented at Ministerial and senior technical levels (over 80 participants). The meeting included a first ever informal peer-review process of the Host country’s achievements in school safety, with field visits to one retrofitted school (Edalat Primary School) and two demolished and reconstructed schools in Tehran (Shahid Madani Educational Centre; Hazrat Zahra High School) that laid the foundation for technical discussions with concrete technical recommendations. The High-Level Segment debated on the modalities to translate commitments to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools into implementation on the ground. Nepal’s invitation as “special guest” fostered exchange of views and experience on school safety implementation at the national and local levels and served as an inspirational model for school safety coordination and implementation for other countries.

The following key decisions were taken at the meeting:

1. An Action Plan in Support of the Implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools was adopted (see Annex 1).

2. Other decisions include:
   - To develop a multi-year (three years) agenda that will build on the meeting decisions and recommendations, to serve as a business model to provide strategic directions for the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools implementation.
   - To hold a Ministerial meeting of Safe School Leaders every 12-16 months.
   - To establish Working Groups with a multi-hazard approach to consolidate and expand the knowledge, expertise and experience in core school safety areas namely a) Financing and resource mobilization; b) Technical aspects; and c) Legal and Insurance. Each working group will provide a progress report on their work once a year to the secretariat for consolidation into an annual report on the work of the Worldwide Initiative that will be circulated to Safe School Leaders and inform the Ministerial meeting of Safe School Leaders.
   - To hold a special meeting to discuss refugee children and students’ needs for school safety together with relevant organizations in the course of 2016.
   - To facilitate the exchange of technical expertise and experiences among Safe School Leaders through the development of a network of technical experts in support of the multi-year programme for the Worldwide Initiative implementation.
   - To support the implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools in Nepal, Cambodia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Kyrgyzstan by the end of 2016 with the technical support from other Governments, experts from the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector and others, and the engagement of the
private sector, private foundations and charity organizations in supporting resilient educational facilities and in mobilizing appropriate resources

- To develop a checklist to monitor the key pillars of comprehensive school safety implementation.
- To expand the membership of the Safe School Leaders group by at least 50 percent before the next meeting.
- To link up with existing initiatives and give political visibility to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools in terms of communications, advocacy, media and public citizens.

Significant commitments and offers emerged from the meeting as follows:

- Commitments from Turkey, the I.R. Iran, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan to make all their schools safe respectively by 2018, 2020 (I.R. Iran and Armenia) and 2024.
- Major budgets are being planned for school safety at the national level.
- Offer made by I.R. Iran, Italy, México and Turkey to provide targeted technical expertise to other countries for school safety implementation.
- Expression of interest from Nepal, Cambodia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Kyrgyzstan to receive targeted support and guidance in selected areas of comprehensive school safety.
- Offer made by the I.R. Iran to lead the Working Group on the technical aspects for the implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools.
- Technical assistance extended by the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector to Governments to implement the proposed set of national indicators at country level to help measure national progress in school safety.
- Offer made by Nepal to host the next Ministerial Meeting of Safe School Leaders in 2016.

A number of good practices were identified throughout the meeting in: (a) mobilizing resources from the private sector and fostering public investments in support of school safety planning and implementation; (b) developing national targets and baselines for school safety; (c) fostering innovative advocacy approaches; and (d) in preparedness activities (see details in p.15).
Introduction

The Second Meeting of Safe School Leaders was held on 4-5 October 2015 in Tehran, I.R. Iran. The meeting benefited from the participation of First Vice-President of Iran, Mr. Es'haq Jahangiri, Dr. Ali Asghar Fani, Minister of Education of the I.R. Iran, Dr. Morteza Raissi Dehkordi, Construction Deputy Minister of Education of I.R. Iran and Head of Organization for Development, and Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. A total of 24 Governments were represented at Ministerial and senior technical level, together with Mr. Gary Lewis, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for the I.R. Iran, regional organizations representatives and technical partners from the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector.

The Tehran meeting builds on the outcome of the First Meeting of Safe School Leaders hosted by Turkey in October 2014 that endorsed the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools (WISS), adopted the Istanbul Roadmap to support the Worldwide Initiative for safe Schools implementation, constituted the Safe School Leaders group and called for political commitment to school safety.

Solid commitments were secured from Governments and partners to school safety and the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools implementation, including at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan).

With its innovative structure, the adoption of an Action Plan in support of the Implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools and a selection of pilot countries, the Tehran meeting converted exchanges of experiences and good practices into a concrete implementation plan for the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools and comprehensive school safety at the national and local levels.
The Second Meeting of Safe School Leaders was opened on 4 October 2015 by Dr. Morteza Raissi, Vice Minister of Education and Head of Organization for Development Renovation and Equipping Schools of I.R. Iran and by Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. The first day provided the opportunity to 24 Safe School Leader countries engaged in advancing school safety implementation in line with the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools, to visit one retrofitted school (Edalat Primary School) and two demolished and reconstructed schools (Shahid Madani Educational Centre; Hazrat Zahra High School) in Tehran.

The visits were organized by the Ministry of Education in the context of a first informal peer review process of Iran’s achievements in implementing school safety at the national level, as proposed by Safe School Leaders at their first meeting in October 2014. A technical presentation providing the details of the retrofitting process utilized for each school was given to all participants, followed by interactions with the students and teachers.

The Ministry of Education, the Board of Directors, the International Institute for Earthquakes Engineering and Seismology and different partner agencies in I.R. Iran presented details on I.R. Iran’s school safety and retrofitting methods, disaster management, students’ training programmes and technical project management for school building retrofitting and reconstruction. A "Fundamental Reform Document of Education (FRDE) in the Islamic Republic of Iran" was presented by Dr. Mahdi Navid Adham, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Education of I.R.Iran, proposing a more people-centred educational process focusing on social, moral and spiritual aspects of the I.R. Iran society.

From left to right; Figure 1: Minister of Education of Nepal (Ms. Yadav) briefing students on the importance of disaster risk reduction education and disaster-resilient educational infrastructures. Figure 2 and3: Minister of Education of Nepal (Mrs. Yadav), SRSG Wahlström and Dr. Raissi Dehkordi during field visits to retrofitted and reconstructed schools. (Edalat Primary School, Hazrat Zahra High School and Shahid Madani Educational Center).
A feedback session with Safe School Leaders on I.R. Iran’s achievements in school safety highlighted the following:

**MAJOR PROGRESS OF I.R. IRAN**

- I.R. Iran has placed earthquake safety high on the national agenda and made remarkable progress in school safety since the Bam earthquake in 2003.
- Approximately 10 million square meters of buildings area were retrofitted, reconstructed and renovated.
- Parliament passed a Law of Schools in 2005 and allocated US$4.5 billion to ensure that 95,000 schools for 13 million students are safe against earthquakes, floods and fire.
- All schools in danger zones have been assessed since 2006 and over 66% were found to need either retrofitting or reconstruction.
- 83% of the work has been completed and the remainder will require a budget allocation of US$3 billion.
- Increase in school safety from one-third to two-thirds from 2006 to 2014.
- One-third of total reconstruction costs are used for retrofitting.
- I.R. Iran’s safe schools programme goes beyond structural improvements.
  - From early in the process (1999), I.R. Iran has placed education in the context of safe schools. I.R. Iran’s actions in this area are therefore in line with the concept of safe schools promoted by the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools.
  - The International Institute for Earthquakes Engineering and Seismology carried out evaluations and ensured the quality control of retrofitted schools.
  - The I.R. Iran has accumulated a wealth of expertise in disaster risk reduction education through the production of educational materials on earthquake risk.
reduction in Persian for 1st to 12th grade, including life skills development and preparedness measures. All aspects of education and public awareness have also been inserted throughout 18 text books and teachers’ trainings on earthquake preparedness have been undertaken extensively.

- A national earthquake drill is performed every November 18 preceded by a month of preparation for the students with painting, writing and story-telling.
- The children are also important agents for change by disseminating information to the broader community, particularly parents who are also engaged through school committees.
- The Ministry of Education of I.R. Iran’s document "Fundamental Reform Document of Education (FRDE) in the Islamic Republic of Iran" is the highest regulation in I.R. Iran that covers both the structural and physical safety of school facilities (architectural aspects, retrofitting, modernization, standardization and information technology) as well as students’ mental safety. This document promotes school safety as a major investment in future generations for enhancing their protection and bringing strong moral and societal values in the safe school context.

CHALLENGES

The following points were highlighted requiring further consideration:

- Modalities for building the political and social motivation to invest in safer schools
- Building a culture of safety – how and with which instruments? How do we define policies that yield success?
- Organizational and coordination design
- Pressure to deliver in short timeframes and obtain immediate return on investments
- Cost of retrofitting vs. reconstruction
- Highlight successes and steps taken, drivers and obstacles

GOOD PRATICES OF I.R.IRAN

- A particularly innovative practice and tradition in I.R. Iran of engaging charity organizations, private donors and individuals in schools retrofitting as a moral obligation. This approach enabled to raise $400 million from the public and the private sector in 2014.
- Institutional arrangement, such as the School Safety Law adopted and ratified by Parliament, provides full legitimacy to and motivates action for safe schools. School safety is no longer just an option but an obligation to the law.
• Building the demand for school safety steers action: the Parliament Law of 2005, by requesting school building to be retrofitted, fostered national action. The media and students’ parents also contribute to building the social demand and influence policy planning for school safety.
• Incentives like tax exemptions for any contributions to safe school construction were developed to motivate private sector’s financial contribution to school safety.
• Effective coordination between Ministry of Education, technical and scientific partners
• Expected return of investment in retrofitting for the next 30 years.
• The expenditure in retrofitting accounts for one-third of the entire construction budget.

TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

• The retrofitting needs to be tailored to the nature of building (schools, hospitals, historical building, rural / cities).
• It is important to retrofit with low spending through local materials and expertise.
• Independent review and peer review though informal processes represent opportunities to obtain feedback on school safety achievements.
• If a building requires more than 40% of costs, better to rebuild rather than retrofit.
• Reconstruction costs more (US$300/sq.meter) than retrofitting (US$100/ sq.meter).
• Concept of school safety is broader than just physical infrastructure. The Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools provides a clear definition of what is a “safe” school.
• Building on a comprehensive approach to school safety, a closer relationship between the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools and the UN Secretary-General’s Global Education First Initiative (social approach to safe schools) is recommended.

COMMITMENTS BY I.R. IRAN

1. To pursue their support to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools by completing their ongoing programme of retrofitting and reconstructing of all public schools located in the country’s seismic zones through a US$3 billion plan up to 2020.

2. To share and transfer technical expertise, experience and knowledge with other Safe School Leader countries in support of the Worldwide Safe Schools Initiative.
SECOND MEETING OF SAFE SCHOOL LEADERS

High-Level Segment: Implementing Commitments

A high-level segment was held on 5 October to discuss the modalities and requirements to convert commitments on school safety into implementation on the ground. The High-Level Segment discussed a business model that would provide strategic directions for the implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools at the national and local levels over the next three years.

The official opening session benefited from the participation of the First Vice-President of Iran, Mr. Es’haq Jahangiri. He highlighted the strong political commitment from the Government of the I.R. Iran to school safety with major financial investments made in school retrofitting and reconstruction (US$4.5 billion) and particular efforts made to ensure an equal access for all students to quality education and safe learning environments. Students and school children’s protection is a key priority for the I.R. Iran Government. School safety has been inserted as part of the I.R. Iran’s 6th five-year development plan 2016-2020, with an allocation of US$3 billion already secured for school safety work, US$1 billion to be allocated for the standardization of the heating system by 2020 and the provision of text books promoting the understanding and awareness of disasters. As a result of the above efforts, the safety of students and educational infrastructures has arisen from one-third in 2006 to two-thirds in 2014. The First Vice President of I.R. Iran reiterated Iran’s willingness and readiness to share their experience in school safety and in mobilizing national budget for school safety.
Dr. Ali Asghar Fani, Minister of Education of I.R. Iran highlighted the importance of taking major steps towards the physical but also the social and cultural safety of students. Reducing risks and hazards as part of the I.R. Iran’s ongoing fundamental reform in the formal education system, will contribute to the promotion of the economic, social and spiritual development and lay the basis for a well informed and prepared society.

Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, opened the discussion by extending her condolences to the Iranian people following the recent tragedy of pilgrims in Mecca. Ms. Wahlström acknowledged the strong commitment of the I.R. Iran Government in school safety through the major investments being made in this area, and by hosting the second meeting of Safe School Leaders. The good practices shared by I.R. Iran in mobilizing donors and the private sector’s contribution to school safety shall motivate and guide other countries. She also welcomed I.R. Iran’s offer to lead a technical working group to share their technical expertise in school safety and advance the objectives of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools in this area.

Ms. Wahlström recalled the commitments made to school safety and the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015, Sendai, Japan)\(^1\). She also reminded Governments of the decision they made in Sendai to develop risk informed national strategies by 2020. She encouraged Governments to ensure that school safety be integrated as a priority as part of national disaster risk reduction strategies with a multi-hazard perspective and appropriate national budget allocation, as a contribution to national economic, human and social development.

Mr. Gary Lewis, the UN Resident Coordinator in I.R. Iran, congratulated I.R. Iran for their impressive record of reducing schools vulnerability by two-thirds between 2006-2014 and for their massive investment of US$4.5 billion over the past few years in schools restoration, retrofitting and equipment as a clear demonstration of the I.R. Iran’s commitment to disaster risk reduction. Mr. Lewis highlighted in particular the cost benefit of I.R. Iran’s Investment with 5400 renovated and fortified schools that were the only ones that sustained the recent earthquakes in I.R. Iran. Mr. Lewis also reconfirmed the UN Country Team’s intention to support the school safety work in Iran by bringing out I.R. Iran’s good practices to the world and build awareness and relevant partnerships on the subject at the national and local levels. Mr. Lewis briefed the group on the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals Summit and World Humanitarian Summit (November 2016, Istanbul, Turkey). He welcomed the concept of building resilience in the education system and of empowering girls and boys to become risk informed adults to shape their safe future. through school safety work as a contribution to sustainable development.

The Government of Turkey briefed the meeting on the outcome of the first meeting of Safe School Leaders held in October 2014 in Istanbul. Significant progress has been made since October 2014 at the global scale following the adoption of the Istanbul Roadmap for the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools implementation. This includes new commitments from Governments, regional organizations and technical partners to support the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools implementation at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Several governments in Asia also have initiated the development of national indicators for school safety and baseline studies on school safety that shall motivate similar action from other regions. Efforts are being made in mobilizing new stakeholders in supporting school safety work and advancing the objectives of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools. This includes in particular the private sector into building the resilience of critical infrastructure, including school safety, and regional organizations (Association of Southeast Asian Nations-ASEAN, Central American Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention-CEPREDENAC, Economic Cooperation Organization-ECO) in reaching out to their Member States to convey the safe schools message.

In Turkey, 80% of the schools are now safe. Turkey is pursuing efforts to complete disaster management plans and risk analysis of all schools by 2017 and their commitment to make all schools in Turkey safe by 2018. An E-learning module for students to stay safe at school and at home was developed, work is under way in relation to the development of national targets and indicators for school safety, and an earthquake-simulation truck set up with UNICEF is building awareness and understanding of seismic risks vulnerability reduction. Turkey highlighted the importance of addressing the educational requirements and support capacity of refugee children and students in the Middle East and globally. This call was welcomed by the I.R.Iran
The Minister of Education of Nepal, Ms. Chitralekha Yadav, invited as a Guest Speaker, provided a detailed status of school safety in Nepal following the devastating 25 April earthquake – and 395 aftershocks - that hit the country, leaving 8 million people (one-third of Nepal’s population) affected and a total damage and losses in the education sector estimated to NPR31.3 billion (approx. US$300 million).

Ms. Yadav highlighted in particular a few innovative actions taken by the Government of Nepal to address future earthquakes in a most appropriate manner. In particular, Nepal revisited their policy and formulated a multi-hazard national disaster risk reduction strategy that integrates a special focus on seismic risk reduction as the prevailing natural hazard in Nepal. A special unit for safe schools construction and a field support for schools construction were set up to enhance coordination on the ground. Budgets were also allocated by the Government as a sign of their strong political commitment to school safety. On a technical level, guidelines and standing operating procedures were developed for enhanced awareness and preparedness to disaster situations across the country. Ms. Yadav called on Governments present to make school safety a priority at national level. Students represent a major asset for every nation who must be protected against the impact of natural hazards. Retrofitting has a cost but also represents a major contribution to economic and social stability as well as peaceful, prosperous and resilient nations.
The meeting welcomed major progress and achievements from Safe School Leaders in the following areas:

1. Structural aspects of school safety (Pillar 1), including school risk assessments, the development and implementation of construction codes and specification of schools, (Armenia, I.R. Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, México, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Turkey and Turkmenistan), 300 schools retrofitted (Armenia), 400 new schools built with new technology equipment (Turkmenistan), 10 million square meters of buildings area retrofitted, reconstructed and renovated (I.R. Iran).

2. School preparedness activities (Pillar 2)
   - Drills organized regularly and contingency plans in place (St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan, I.R. Iran, Italy, Panama, Turkmenistan).
   - Early warning systems for schools (Panama, I.R. Iran).
   - Training courses that led to 12 million students’ improved awareness (I.R. Iran).

3. Integration of disaster risk reduction in the school curriculum (Pillar 3) associated with topics of climate change adaptation (St Vincent and the Grenadines), safe lives and environmental protection (Turkmenistan).

4. Policy and legal actions for school safety
   - School safety recognized as a national priority by order of Government (Armenia, I.R. Iran, Italy, México, Nepal).
   - Improved coordination efforts and arrangements among Ministries and key national partners (Cambodia, I.R. Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Turkey) including under the Prime Minister’s leadership (Italy).
   - Disaster management law put in place (Cambodia, I.R. Iran), normative arm of Ministry of Education exclusively dedicated to educational infrastructure set up (México).
   - Reform of the education system considered (Ecuador) and being implemented (I.R. Iran).


6. Resource mobilization efforts for school safety:
   - 30 years loan with European Development Bank (Italy).
   - Turkmenistan mobilizing resources from the EU to scale up the existing school buildings’ assessment exercise to the entire country.
7. Development of national targets and indicators for comprehensive school safety implementation in support of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools.

8. Advocacy work for school safety, including some innovative approaches to raise the profile of school safety at the national level and secure enhanced Government’s attention and budgetary allocation.
   - School Safety Week with meetings, conferences, exhibitions, drills, demonstration of tools (March 2016) (Italy).
   - National competition on safe schools videos (St Vincent and the Grenadines).
   - Building the social demand for school safety through parents and students to motivate Government’s action (Ecuador, I.R. Iran, Italy, Madagascar).

9. Support to internally displaced children with the distribution of disaster risk reduction materials (Nigeria) and provision of regular education (I.R. Iran, Turkey).

10. Increased interest to join the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools both from Governments (12 more since the first meeting in Turkey) and regional organizations (ASEAN, CEPREDENAC, ECO).

Good practices were highlighted in the following areas:

- Resource mobilization in support of school safety planning and implementation.
  - The I.R. Iran’s “1000 Iranian Donors” and “Charter of School-Building of I.R. Iran” that includes donors contributions from the private sector, private foundations, charity organizations and individuals’ to school safety work successfully contributed to the mobilization of major investments in support of safer schools across the country.
  - Nigeria secured financial support (US$27 million) from a combination of sources from the private sector, development banks and external donors to mainstream disaster risk reduction as part of the education sector, in particular to carry out drills and
simulation develop contingency plans and ensure the sustainability of school safety programme.

- Turkey has motivated the scaling up of the national budget allocation for school safety thanks to the successful results of the “39 schools 39 districts” project.
- Madagascar is allocating 20% of their national budget to education and school safety.
- The development and use of specific funds aimed at reducing and managing the risk and damage caused by natural hazards to educational infrastructure (México).
- Mobilization of resources from EU institutions and development banks to scale up the existing school buildings’ assessment exercise to the entire country (Turkmenistan) and for safe schools implementation at national level (Italy).

- The development of national targets and baselines for school safety (Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

- Advocacy innovative approaches
  - Setting up of a “School Safety Week” in Italy in March 2016 that was encouraged for replication by other Safe School Leader countries.
  - A national competition on school safety videos in St Vincent and Grenadines
  - Bidding competition for safe schools equipment (Italy).

- Preparedness activities
  - The development of risk maps at schools to assess the school’s exposure and vulnerability (I.R. Iran, Panama).
  - Drills and simulation exercises (Ecuador, I.R. Iran, Italy, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Turkey).

Some remaining challenges were identified in relation to:

- Data collection on schools, disasters’ impact, getting access to risk assessment methodologies and guidance remains weak and scattered across countries.
- No systematic evaluation of educational facilities’ risks.
- Contingency plans not in place in all schools.
- No standard criteria to assess schools in line with global standards.
- Lack of political commitment and budgetary allocation to school safety.
- Sustainability and maintenance of safe schools.
THE MEETING:

✓ **ADOPTED** the Action Plan in Support of the Implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools (see details in Annex 1).

✓ **CALLED FOR GREATER ATTENTION AND FOCUSED ACTION** on the following critical needs:

*Governance and institutional aspects for school safety*

- To institutionalize comprehensive school safety approach as part of a multi-year programme in support of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools’ implementation and monitoring process.
- To anchor safe school discussions and actions in the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (Global Target (d) on critical infrastructure) and national strategies for disaster risk reduction to be developed by Governments by 2020.
- To increase coordination for school safety planning and implementation at the national and local levels.

*Resource mobilization and financing school safety*

- To engage the private sector, private foundations and charity organizations in supporting safe school and to identify incentives to motivate them to invest in school safety (private and public schools financing).
- To motivate the public sector to prioritize school safety as part of their national budget.

*Fostering a local approach to school safety*

- To involve the local authorities in school safety work especially in countries with strong decentralization and devolution process of disaster risk reduction processes.
- To cooperate more closely with local communities and schools in fostering disaster risk reduction education (Japan), in developing disaster management plans in a coordinated manner with the entire community (including teachers and local stakeholders).
• To localize plans for education (Panama, I.R. Iran) and consider setting up a working group in each country to work on “local solutions” / localizing safe schools work (Turkey).

Enhancing the technical aspects of school safety
• To develop and disseminate minimum standard criteria, technical guidelines, methodology and regulation for school safety assessment compatible with global standards (Armenia, I.R. Iran, Madagascar, St Vincent and the Grenadines) to help countries increase their standards.
• To explore opportunities for the development of an international safe school certification process, possibly in cooperation with ISO (Thailand).
• To facilitate reliable disaster predictions and early warning systems for schools (I.R. Iran, Panama).
• To share good practices, exchange experiences and technical support on school safety implementation among Safe School Leaders and other interested Governments (all).
• To set up a network of technical experts to contribute to working groups discussions and to be made available to support interested Governments in school safety implementation (all).
• To develop databases for school safety data collection available to all Safe School Leaders (all).
• To build close collaboration and partnership with key technical and research institutes for safe school building (Armenia, I.R. Iran).
• To propose a clear definition of safe schools as part of the technical working group (USA, Thailand).
• To ensure a sustainable maintenance of safe schools (México, Kyrgyzstan).

Focusing on a more social and people-centered approach to school safety
• To address social issues linked to school safety, in particular inclusiveness of disabled children and students, right to quality, non-interrupted education and safe learning environments (Nepal, South Africa, Turkey), the role of education in promoting moral values (I.R. Iran) and the link to environmental protection (South Africa).
• Awareness and dissemination must go together. It is important to educate and empower girls as leaders in advocating for disaster risk reduction and education at the community level (Nepal).
• To place particular emphasis on the issue of higher education as part of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools (ASEAN).
• To address refugee children and students’ special education needs (I.R. Iran, Nigeria, Turkey).
To enhance social networking among Safe School Leaders through a dedicate web space to spread the safe schools message and promote the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools globally (all).

To develop appropriate mechanism for the compilation and dissemination of good practices on school safety (all).

To address the insurance aspects of school infrastructure (México).

Building new partnerships

To engage more systematically regional intergovernmental organizations to motivate their Member States’ membership to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools and to implement comprehensive school safety at the national level.

✓ WELCOMED:

The commitments made by Turkey, the I.R. Iran, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan to make all their schools safe respectively by 2018, 2020 (I.R. Iran and Armenia) and 2024.

The major budgets allocated to school safety by I.R. Iran (US$4.5 billion), Armenia (USD3 billion), Nigeria (USD53 billion) for a holistic mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the education sector, Italy (EUR4 million), Kyrgyzstan (USD800 million).

Governments’ planned prioritization of school safety at the national level over the coming three years, in particular in the areas of:

- Developing educational facilities’ standard assessment criteria and methodology compatible with global standards, standardization and certification issues (I.R.Iran, Madagascar, Panama, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Thailand).
- A regular monitoring of educational facilities’ safety and number of “safe schools” (Panama).
- The development of disaster management plans (for all schools by 2017, St Vincent and the Grenadines).
- Ensuring higher accountability of teachers for school safety for their children and students’ safety (Kazakhstan) and more systematic training opportunities on school safety for teachers (Costa Rica).
- The integration of disaster risk reduction and/or climate change adaptation in the curriculum (Georgia, St Vincent and the Grenadines).
Disaster risk reduction and resilience education. The content is critical and needs to be modernized / updated to give more emphasis to risk and vulnerability reduction rather than response and relief.

Social aspects of school safety (inclusiveness, equality, right to education etc.) (I.R. Iran, South Africa).

Build increased social demand for school safety from parents and children / students (I.R. Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan).

The development of national indicators and possible replication of the EU model proposed by Italy to assess the vulnerability and exposure of critical infrastructure.

The development and sharing of databases on school safety (including data on disasters’ impact on educational facilities, number of safe schools, impact of school safety).

Increased cooperation with local authorities and schools in disaster risk reduction education (Japan) and an increased localization of education plans (Panama).

- The offer made by Armenia, I.R. Iran, Italy, México and Turkey to provide technical expertise on school safety implementation to other countries.

- The expression of interest from Nepal, Cambodia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Kyrgyzstan to receive targeted support and guidance in selected areas of comprehensive school safety.

- The offer made by the I.R. Iran to lead the Working Group on the technical aspects for the implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools.

- The assistance extended by the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector to Governments to implement the proposed set of national indicators at country level to help them better measure their progress in school safety.

- The offer made by Nepal to host the next Ministerial Meeting of Safe School Leaders in 2016.

- The interest of Armenia, Ecuador, Georgia, Italy and Qatar to host future Safe School Leaders meetings and / or related Working Group meetings.
✓ DECIDED:

1. To develop a multi-year (three years) agenda that will build on the Action Plan and serve as a business model to provide strategic directions for the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools implementation.

The secretariat for the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools was requested to lead the development and monitoring of the plan and to facilitate the engagement of the private sector, regional authorities, local governments, UN country teams, and other education initiatives in close coordination with Safe School leaders and members of the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector.

2. To hold a Ministerial meeting of Safe School Leaders every 12-16 months.

3. To establish Working Groups with a multi-hazard approach to consolidate and expand the knowledge, expertise and experience in core school safety areas.

Each working group will provide a progress report on their work once a year to the secretariat for consolidation into an annual report on the work of the Worldwide Initiative that will be circulated to Safe School Leaders and inform the Ministerial meeting of Safe School Leaders.

The initial key areas of focus proposed for the working groups include:

- Technical aspects of school safety (namely educational facilities’ risk assessment; facilities’ design, retrofitting methods based on kind of structures and contexts, reconstruction & relocation, the development and actual implementation of building codes; specification and certification process for schools, technical expertise required, data gaps)

- Financing and mobilizing resources for safe schools: how create incentives to motivate the private sector, private foundations and charity organizations to invest in safe schools.

- Legal / insurance aspects for multi-hazard school safety implementation at the national level by the end of 2015.

4. To hold a special meeting to discuss refugee children and students’ needs for school safety together with relevant organizations in the course of 2016.
5. To facilitate the exchange of technical expertise and experiences among Safe School Leaders through the development of a network of technical experts in support of the multi-year programme for the Worldwide Initiative implementation.

6. To support the implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools in at least four countries by the end of 2016 with the technical support from other Governments, experts from the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector and others, and the engagement of the private sector, private foundations and charity organizations in supporting resilient educational facilities and in mobilizing appropriate resources.

Nepal, Cambodia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Kyrgyzstan expressed interest to benefit from the above-proposed technical support to enhance school safety implementation at the national level.

7. To develop a checklist to monitor the key pillars of comprehensive school safety implementation.

8. To expand the membership of the Safe School Leaders group by at least 50 percent before the next meeting.

9. To link up with existing initiatives and give political visibility to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools in terms of communications, advocacy, media and public citizens

### Next steps and timeline

- Convert the commitments made into a three-year plan in support of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools implementation – First quarter 2016.
- Define exact modalities for the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools plan’s implementation and monitoring, including the mobilization of UN system at the national level and in-country technical partners’ support through GADRES - First quarter 2016.
- Set up Working Groups, develop TORs, call for Safe School Leaders’ interest to lead, join and / or host working group meetings (virtually or physically) – First quarter 2016.
- Develop database for the compilation of good practices on school safety – By first quarter 2016.
Define a timeframe for technical discussions / working groups meetings in coordination with Working Groups leaders.

Initiate the preparations for the next Ministerial Safe School leaders meeting in Nepal – Throughout 2016.

Engage private sector, local authorities, local communities, regional organizations.

Integrate school safety and Worldwide Initiative for safe Schools related discussions as part of Regional and Global Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and other key disaster risk reduction related meetings globally – Ongoing 2016-2017

Enhanced promotion of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools and school safety through regular communications activities and channels (stories, press releases, interviews, social media etc.).

### Forthcoming events in relation to school safety

- First Forum on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education sector, 12-15 October 2015, St Lucia.
- Second Regional Consultation on Comprehensive School safety, November 2015, Lao PDR.
- Planned Comprehensive School Safety Meeting in the Caribbean.

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ANNEX 1

ACTION PLAN

In support of the implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools

Adopted on 5 October 2015 in Tehran, I.R. Iran

The Second Meeting of Safe School Leaders was hosted by the Government of I.R. Iran on 4-5 October 2015 in Tehran. The meeting benefited from the participation of 24 Governments at Ministerial and senior technical levels, and technical partners and experts engaged in safe schools. The meeting:

RECOGNIZED

The progress of the Worldwide Initiative on Safe Schools including:

✓ The adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 that recognizes critical infrastructure, including educational facilities, as a priority for support;

✓ The focus of the Sendai Framework to integrate school safety as part of national disaster risk reduction plans and strategies by 2020;

✓ The commitments made by Governments to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools including at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction;

✓ The adoption of the Istanbul Roadmap for the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools at the First Meeting of Safe School Leaders (October 2014, Turkey) that provides a blueprint for the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools implementation;

✓ The continued role of the Safe School Leaders in driving and shaping the initiative in order to implement safe schools across the globe; and

✓ Countries’ extensive achievements and experience in advancing the objectives of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools.
APPRECIATED

✔ The commitment made by the Government of the I.R. Iran to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe School in taking the lead in hosting the Second Meeting of Safe School Leaders (4-5 October 2015, Tehran, I.R. Iran)

✔ The peer review and field visits on school safety led by the Government of I.R. Iran that demonstrated significant achievements, technical expertise and innovative approaches in implementation.

✔ The good practices on school safety implementation that were presented and discussed by Governments at the Second Meeting of Safe School Leaders.

✔ Particular country cases severely affected by recent disaster situations as opportunities to support a comprehensive approach to school safety to ensure nation-wide safe school construction.

✔ The technical support developed by the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector to support the implementation of safe schools.

AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TO ADVANCE THE WORLDWIDE INITIATIVE FOR SAFE SCHOOLS:

1. To develop long-term national disaster risk reduction plans that integrate school safety by 2020, as per the Sendai Framework’s call, with an appropriate budget allocation for its implementation.

2. To facilitate the exchange of technical expertise and experiences including through a network of technical experts and the establishment of Working Groups with a multi-hazard approach on key areas of the meeting outcomes, namely on technical, financial and legal / insurance aspects for multi-hazard school safety implementation at the national level by the end of 2015. A special meeting is proposed to discuss refugee children and students’ needs for school safety together with relevant organizations in the course of 2016.

3. To develop a set of national indicators for school safety by the end of the first quarter of 2016 to inform the global indicators being developed by the open ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology in relation to disaster risk reduction as well as the indicators on the related Sustainable Development Goals.

4. To support the implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools in at least four countries by the end of 2016 with the technical support from other Governments, experts...
from the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector and others, and the engagement of the private sector, private foundations and charity organizations in supporting resilient educational facilities and in mobilizing appropriate resources.

5. To expand the membership of the Safe School Leaders group by at least 50 percent before the next meeting.

6. To request each Working Group and associated technical partners to submit a progress report once a year to the secretariat on their accomplishments in support of the Worldwide Initiative, for compilation by the secretariat into an annual report on the work of the Worldwide Initiative to be circulated to Safe School Leaders.

7. To request the secretariat to:

- Pursue the development of an implementation plan engaging the private sector, regional authorities, local governments, UN country teams, and other education initiatives for circulation to Safe School Leaders by the end of 2015, as a possible resource mobilization mechanism for school safety implementation.

- Identify opportunities for profiling and advancing the Worldwide Initiative on Safe Schools at upcoming regional and global platforms for disaster risk reduction and other relevant meetings.

- Support the development and dissemination of consolidated practical guidance and case studies on safe schools implementation by June 2016 in cooperation with the working groups and technical partners.

- Provide appropriate guidance and support to Host Governments with regard to the organization of Safe School Leaders meetings, including meetings of the Working Groups to inform and report on progress to a Ministerial meeting every 12-18 months.

- Coordinate action with Governments, the United Nations system and technical partners for an effective and concerted implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools in designated countries.

**WELCOMED**

- The commitments made by Turkey, the I.R. Iran, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan to make all their schools safe respectively by 2018, 2020 (I.R. Iran and Armenia) and 2024.
• The offer made by I.R. Iran, Italy, México and Turkey to provide technical expertise on school safety implementation to other countries.

• The expression of interest from Nepal, Cambodia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Kyrgyzstan to receive targeted support and guidance in selected areas of comprehensive school safety.

• The offer made by the I.R. Iran to lead the Working Group on the technical aspects for the implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools.

• The assistance extended by the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector to Governments to implement the proposed set of national indicators at country level to help them better measure their progress in school safety.

• The offer made by Nepal to host the next Ministerial Meeting of Safe School Leaders in 2016.

• The interest of Armenia, Ecuador, Georgia, Italy and Qatar to host future Safe School Leaders meetings and / or related Working Group meetings.

Tehran, I.R. Iran, 5 October 2015
ANNEX 2

SECOND MEETING OF SAFE SCHOOL LEADERS
4-5 October 2015, Tehran, I.R. Iran

Final Agenda

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday 4 October</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7.45-8.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Venue:</strong> Almaas Hall (M Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Registration</td>
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<td>• Welcoming remarks</td>
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<td>• Introduction of the morning field visits by the Government of I.R. Iran</td>
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| **08.00** |
| Departure to field visits of selected educational facilities sites |
| **Venue:** Hotel Lobby |

| **8.00-12.00** |
| Field visits of selected educational facilities sites |
| **Venue:** Tehran |

| **12.30** |
| Return to Conference venue |

| **12.30 – 14.00** |
| **Lunch** |
| **Venue:** Orkideh Hall (26th floor) |

| **14.00 – 17.25** |
| **Peer-review of I.R. Iran's achievements in school safety** |
| **Venue:** Almaas Hall (M Floor) |

**Co-Chairs:** Ms. Margareta Wahlström (UN); Dr. Morteza Raissi Dehkordi (I.R.Iran)

- 14.00-14.05 Welcoming remarks from the Bureau
- 14.05-14.15 Video clips of Iranian donors’ contribution in schools
- 14:15-14.30 Presentations of I.R. Iran's initiatives, achievements and future plans for comprehensive school safety,
by Dr. Morteza Raissi Dehkordi, Iran University of Science & Technology

- **14.30-15.15** Presentations by the Board of Directors
  - Disaster management and students training in I.R. Iran.
  - Technical project management for school building retrofitting in I.R. Iran.
  - School safety and retrofitting methods in I.R. Iran.

- **15.15-15.40** Presentation of "Fundamental Reform Document of Education (FRDE) in the Islamic Republic of I.R.Iran"

- **15.40-15.55** Coffee break

- **15.55-17.25** Feedback Session and Lessons learned
  - I.R. Iran’s contribution to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools
  - Feedback from participants on the field visits and I.R. Iran’s achievements in school safety
  - Identification of good practices
  - Formulation of recommendations

**17.25 – 17.40** Conclusions of the first day

**19.30-21.30** Dinner at Parsian Azadi Hotel
SECOND MEETING OF SAFE SCHOOL LEADERS
4-5 October 2015, Tehran, I.R. Iran

Final Agenda

**Monday 5 October**

*Venue: Zarrin Hall (M Floor)*

8.00-8.20  Quran recitation
           Master of Ceremony makes a quick round of introductions

8.20-8.35  Welcoming remarks and Opening Statement by the Head of DRES
           Report of school safety by Mr. Ali Asghar Fani, Minister of Education of I.R Iran

8.35-8.50  Statement by the Government of I.R. Iran

8.50-9.00  Video on actions and achievements by the I.R. Iran on school safety

9.00-9.10  Opening remarks, by Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the
           United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

9.10-9.15  Remarks by Mr. Gary Lewis, UN Resident Coordinator, I.R. Iran

9.15-9.30  Report on the first meeting of Safe School Leaders (October 2014, Turkey), by
           Mr. Yusuf Büyük, Deputy Under-Secretary, Ministry of Education, Turkey

9.30-10.00 School safety challenges in Nepal – Country case and lessons learned, by Mrs.
            Chitralekha Yadav, Minister for Education
            Discussion

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-13.00 Ministerial discussion - Specific achievements, challenges and commitments to
             school safety implementation and the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools

13.00-14.00 Lunch
14.00-16.00  Open discussion: Translating school safety commitments into implementation on the ground
14.00-14.05  Brief recap of commitments emerging from the Sendai World Conference
14.05-14.20  Progress on national targets and indicators for school safety
14.20-14.30  Technical support package for the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools - Key elements
14.30-14.35  Regional support to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools
14.35-16.00  Piloting the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools at country level

16.00-16.30  Coffee break

16.30-17.30  Adoption of an Action Plan in support of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools

17.30-17.50  Next annual meeting of Safe School Leaders

17.50-18.00  Closing

20.30  Official reception at Milad Tower
       (departure at 19.30 in Hotel lobby)

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Second Safe School Leaders Meeting, 4-5 October 2015
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

FINAL PARTICIPANTS LIST

ARMENIA
- Mr. Armen Ghularyan, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Urban Development
- Mr. Masis Aghayants, Deputy Head of the Secretariat, Ministry of Education and Science

CAMBODIA
- Mr. Bunna Sun, Deputy Director of Curriculum Development Department (CDD) Ministry of Education

COSTA RICA
- Mr. Miguel Ángel Gutierrez Rodríguez, Viceministro de Planificación y Coordinación Regional

ECUADOR
- Ms. Carmen Guagua, National Director of Risk Management National Directorate of Risk Management, Ministry of Education

GEORGIA
- Ms. Rusudan Tevzadze, Ministry of Education
- Mr. Teimuraz Kordzaia, Emergency Management Agency

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
- H.E. Dr. Ali Asghar Fani, Minister of Education of I.R. Iran and Chairman of National Committee for Safe School of I.R. Iran (NCSSI)
- Dr. Morteza Raissi Dehkordi, Construction Deputy of Minister of Education of I.R. Iran, Head of Organization for Development, Renovation and Equipping Schools (DRES), Head of Iran's Safe Schools programme, Vice Chairman of NCSSI, Chairman of Executive Board of NCSSI
- Mr. Amanollah Abbasi, Secretary of NCSSI, Member of Executive Board of NCSSI
- Mr. Ali Shahri, Vice Chairman of Executive Board of NCSSI, Member of NCSSI
- Mr. Hamid Alyannezhad, Coordinator of NCSSI, Member of Executive Board of NCSSI
- Mr. Mahdi Eghbali, Secretary of Executive Board of NCSSI, Iran's Safe Schools Programme Coordinator, Member of NCSSI
- Mr. Khalilollah Babalu, Head of Department of International Affairs and Schools Abroad of Minister of Education of I.R. Iran
- Dr. Mahdi Navid Adham, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Education of I.R.Iran
- Dr. Abbas Sadri, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)
• Mr. Esmaeil Najjar, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
• Prof. Mohsen Ghafor Ashtiani, International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology
• Prof. Hasan Moghadam, Sharif University of Technology
• Prof. Gholamreza Ghodrati Amiri, Iran University of Science & Technology
• Dr. Abdolreza Saryghad moghadam, International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology
• Mr. Seyed Bagher Moslemi, DRES
• Mr. Morteza Khodbhe, DRES
• Ms. Maryam Setayesh Sanai, DRES
• Mr. Mohammad Yekrangnia, DRES
• Mr. Hamid Masoodi, DRES
• Mr. Davood Karimi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
• Mr. Ali Hajilari, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
• Mr. Abolfazl Moradi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ITALY
• Dr. Agostino Goretti, Seismic and Volcanic Risk Office, Civil Protection Department

JAPAN
• Mr. Ken Noguchi, Director, Office for Disaster Prevention Facilities Planning Division, Department of Facilities Planning and Administration, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
• Mr. Yusuke Nakashima, Officer, Office for Disaster Prevention Facilities Planning Division Department of Facilities Planning and Administration Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

KAZAKHSTAN
• Ms. Ardak Sadykova, Head of Office of Inclusive and Special Education, Department Preschool and Secondary Education, and Informational Technologies, Ministry of Education and Science
• Ms. Aliya Abeldinova, Chief expert of the Child Rights Protection Committee, Ministry of Education and Science

KYRGYZSTAN
• Mr. Atambekov Shaibek, Head of the Department on Investments, Repairs and Maintenance, Ministry of Education
• Ms. Tatiana Ten, Emergency and Disaster Risk Reduction Officer, UNICEF-CO Kyrgyzstan

LAO PDR
• Ms. Sengdeuane Lachanthaboune, Deputy Minister of Education and Sports
• Dr. Dararone Kittiphanh, Director Research and Executive Briefing Division and DRR Focal Point, Cabinet of Education and Sports
MADAGASCAR
- Mr. Paul Ghislain Rakotoarison, Director Public Training, Ministry of National Education

MEXICO
- Mr. José Luis López Rodríguez, Vice-Director of Damage Management and Infrastructure Assessment, National Institute of Physical Educational Infrastructure.

NEPAL
- Ms. Chitralekha Yadav, Minister for Education
- Mr. Kamleshwar Kumar Sinha, Deputy Secretary General, Nepal National Commission for UNESCO

NIGERIA
- Mr. Muhammad Sani Sidi, Director General NEMA
- Mr. Mohammed Zanna Lamin, Honourable Commissioner for Education Yobe State and Member Technical Committee SSI.
- Mr. Alhassan Nuhu, Director Disaster Risk Reduction, Member Technical Committee SSI
- Mrs. Gold-Idehen Rose Ivie, Deputy Director, Secondary Education (Representing the Permanent Secretary/Minister Federal Ministry of Education (Member SSI Technical Committee).
- Mr. Abbani Imam Garki, Assistant Chief Disaster Risk Reduction Officer (SSI Desk Officer)

PANAMA
- Ms. María Castro de Tejeira, Administrative Vice Minister, Ministry of Education
- Mr. Edwin Gordon, National Environment Education Director of the Ministry of Education

QATAR
- Mr. Khamis Salem Alsovedi, Sector Manager In Civil Defence
- Mr. Khaled Mohamad Ebrahim Mohamad Almajeri, Supreme Advisor In Education and Director of Facility Management

SOUTH AFRICA
- Mr. Charles Wilson, Senior Education Officer, National Department of Basic Education

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
- Dr. Idelia Ferdinand, Disaster Management and Sustainable Development

THAILAND
- Dr. Saipan Sripunchphankul, Office of Basic Education Commission, Ministry of Education

TUNISIA
- H.E. Mr. Néji Jalloul, Minister of Education
- Mr. Mondher El Afi, Minister’s Cabinet
TURKEY
- Mr. Yusuf Büyuk, Deputy Under Secretary, Ministry of Education
- Mr. İbrahim Boncuk, Ministry of Education
- Mr. Yusuf Öksüz, Ministry of Education
- Mr. Ömer Faruk Furat, AFAD Deputy
- Mr. Özgür Bostancı, AFAD
- Mr. Muammer Bacanli, AFAD
- Ms. Özlem Velioglu, AFAD
- Mr. Tezcan Bucan, AFAD
- Mr. Fikret Azili, Deputy Director, Istanbul Governorship

TURKMENISTAN
- Mr. Gurbanov Dovlet, Head of Department of Secondary and General Education
- Ms. Tamara Hojammedova, Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Point.
- Mr. Yagshimur Annamuradov, Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Officer, UNICEF Turkmenistan

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
- Prof. Yousef Bozorgnia, University of California, Berkeley, Executive Director of Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER),
- Mr. Barry H. Welliver, Chair of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institutes School Earthquake Safety Initiative

UN OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (UNISDR)
- Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR Geneva
- Mr. Denis McClean, Chief, Communications and Outreach
- Ms. Christel Rose, UNISDR Geneva
- Ms. Sahar Safaié, UNISDR Geneva

UNited Nations Resident Coordinator in I.R. Iran
- Mr. Gary Lewis, United nations Resident Coordinator, I.R. Iran.

Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector
- Ms. Esther Kuish-Laroche, Director, UNESCO Office in Tehran
- Ms. Hoda Jabarian, National Programme Officer for Education of UNESCO Tehran Office
- Mr. Alexander Makarigakis, Science Division, UNESCO Paris
- Mr. Jacobo Ocharan, Head of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, Plan International UK
- Mr. Thearat Touch, Programme Manager, ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI) - Plan Asia - Regional Office
• Mr. Davood Pourkhanali, IFRC Country Representative, Iran
• Mr. Sadrack Bertrand Matanda, IFRC Disaster Response Delegate/Acting DMC Disaster Management Unit/MENA
• Mr. Ahmad Soltani, Deputy of IRCS Relief & Rescue Planning and Training
• Mr. Mehrab Sharifi, Senior Officer to IRCS Applied Science Higher Education's Training Affairs
• Mr. Ali Bakhshandeh, Head of IRCS Technical & Engineering Construction Office
• Mr. Sarem Rezaeai, Deputy Director general, IRCS international division

Ms. Anna Stativkina, Emergency Officer, UNICEF Kazakhstan
ANNEX 4

PRESS RELEASES

Iran nears goal of 100% safe schools

Ms. Margareta Wahlström, head of UNISDR, Dr. Morteza Raissi Dehkordi, Deputy Minister for Education, Iran, and Prof. Mohsen Ghafory-Ashtiany of the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology at the opening day of the Safe School Leaders meeting in Tehran. (Photo: UNISDR)

By Denis McClean

TEHRAN, 5 October 2015 - Iran’s commitment to ensuring Safe Schools was made clear yesterday as it announced plans to spend $3 billion over the next five years to complete its programme of retrofitting or reconstructing all public schools located in the country’s seismic zones.

The country has also offered to share its technical expertise and knowledge with other countries in the Worldwide Safe Schools Initiative (WISS) launched by UNISDR and partners at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March.

Iran has made remarkable progress since the Bam earthquake, which claimed over 30,000 lives in 2003 and placed earthquake safety high on the national agenda. In 2005, Parliament passed a Law of Schools and allocated $4.5 billion to ensure that 95,000 schools for 13 million students are safe against earthquakes, floods and fire.

Speaking yesterday to the second meeting of Safe School Leaders, attended by 24 countries, Dr. Morteza Raissi Dehkordi, Deputy Minister for Education and head of Iran’s Safe Schools programme, said that all schools in danger zones have been assessed and over 66% were found to need either retrofitting or reconstruction, work that has been underway since 2006.

He explained that 83% of the work has been completed and the remainder will require a budget allocation of $3 billion, which he was confident of receiving.

During a question and answer session following a visit to three retrofitted schools in Tehran, Dr. Raissi emphasized the important role that individual donors and the private sector play in supporting the safe schools programme which raised $200 million from non-governmental sources last year.
“In Iran there is very strong cultural support for safe schools. Most donors give not because of tax exemptions but because they see how important this is for the country’s future. It is about our values as a society and it is an investment in our youth. Before we embarked on the safe schools programme we created public awareness of the risk and what could be done and this generated political commitment and support at the highest levels in the country including the Supreme Leader,” said Dr. Raissi.

Iran’s safe schools programme goes beyond structural improvements. Prof. Mohsen Ghafory-Ashtiany of the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, said great emphasis was placed on training teachers how to talk to students about earthquake risk and there are now 18 text books for students from the 1st grade to the 12th grade.

Prof. Mohsen-Ashtiany said the national earthquake drill which takes place on November 18 is preceded by a month of preparation for the students. “We make it a fun learning experience and the students do lots of different projects which can include painting, writing and telling stories. The children are also important for disseminating information to the broader community particularly parents who are also engaged through school committees.”

Representatives from 24 countries are participating in two days of meetings as part of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools.

Ms. Margareta Wahlström, head of UNISDR, said: “The support of Iran is important to the success of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools. Iran’s offer to share its technical expertise and knowledge of seismic risk reduction with other countries is most welcome and will be enthusiastically received by many countries who lack the experience and knowledge which Iran has carefully accumulated over the last 12 years.”

This second meeting of Safe School leaders is being attended by representatives from Armenia, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Qatar, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, and the USA.

In addition to UNISDR, there is also participation from UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Gary Lewis, the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector including UNESCO; Plan International, UK; ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative; the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Iranian Red Crescent Society and UNICEF.

Date: 5 Oct 2015

Sources: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (UNISDR AP)

http://www.unisdr.org/archive/46021
Action agreed on Safe Schools

By Denis McClean

TEHRAN, 6 October, 2015 - The head of UNISDR, Margareta Wahlström, today welcomed the adoption of a global action plan by 24 countries to advance the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools (WISS) in line with the targets for reducing disaster losses set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In his opening address to the Second Meeting of Safe School Leaders, First Vice-President of Iran, Mr. Es’haq Jahangiri, expressed the country’s grief at the large loss of life during the Hajj. He was joined in expressions of condolences by Ms. Wahlström and the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Gary Lewis.

First Vice-President Jahangiri said he hoped the meeting would be a starting point for greater interaction between the Iranian Ministry of Education and counterparts around the world given the significant progress made in Iran on ensuring the basic right of students to enjoy safe schools.

The meeting was given a dramatic insight into the challenges of ensuring safe schools from Nepal’s Minister for Education, Mrs. Chitralekha Yadav, who said that the April tragedy could have caused huge loss of life if it had happened on a normal school day as thousands of schools were damaged or destroyed by the three earthquakes which were followed by hundreds of aftershocks.

Minister Yadav said an immediate priority for the government was to make Temporary Learning Centres available for students as soon as possible after the earthquake in facilities passed as safe places of learning. “The psychological trauma of the earthquake would not be relieved if they did not return to school. This helped the parents also to return to normal life,” she said.

Overall, she said that political will and commitment were essential to ensuring disaster risk management encompasses policy on safe schools.

Delegates have broadly agreed to develop national disaster risk reduction plans that integrate school safety by 2020 with appropriate budget; to develop national indicators for school safety; to implement
WISS in four countries with the support of the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector and the engagement of the private sector; and expand the membership of the Safe Schools Leaders group.

Ms. Wahlström, who chaired the concluding session, said: “The proposed action plan contains concrete goals which will build on the momentum already generated by many countries to make schools safe not just from earthquakes but a variety of hazards including floods and storms.

“Safe learning facilities is where a lot of the focus has been in today’s discussion. More work can be done on this issue by the technical working groups that will meet in advance of the next Safe School Leaders meeting. The discussions have also highlighted the importance of collecting best practice when it comes to financing safe schools.

“I thank Japan for raising the important issue of the role of the community in safe schools. No school operates as an island separate from the surrounding community who must always be involved in the development of disaster risk management plans. Safe schools must be inclusive environments where different languages and groups are catered to.

“I welcome the commitment of Nepal to host the next meeting of Safe School Leaders, a forum which is becoming an important catalyst for national level implementation of the Sendai Framework.”

Dr. Morteza Raissi Dehkordi, Deputy Minister for Education and head of Iran’s Safe Schools programme, said that Iran was happy to take the lead in the technical working group and in facilitating the exchange of experiences and expertise on retrofitting and reconstruction in particular.

He also expressed the hope that the Safe Leaders Group would continue to grow as it had already done since the first meeting in Istanbul in 2014.

This second meeting of Safe School leaders which concluded yesterday was attended by representatives from 24 countries: Armenia, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Qatar, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, and the United States.

Date: 6 Oct 2015

Sources: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (UNISDR AP)

http://www.unisdr.org/archive/46050
Press release
8 October 2015 - UNISDR 2015/32

UN LAUNCHES CALL FOR SAFE SCHOOLS ON 10th ANNIVERSARY
OF PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

08 October 2015, GENEVA – The head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Margareta Wahlström, today marked the anniversary of the 7.8 Pakistan earthquake which killed 19,000 schoolchildren and their teachers with a call for more countries to join the new Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools.

Ms. Wahlström said: “Today we remember all 87,000 people who lost their lives in Pakistan on October 8, 2005 and our thoughts are particularly with those who lost children in that tragedy which occurred at 8.50 a.m. not long after the school day had begun. A school should be second only to the family home as the safest place on earth for a child.

“In some of the world’s most dangerous seismic zones where either building codes do not exist or compliance is not enforced, schools have the potential to become graveyards for children and teachers. Earthquakes kill more people than any other natural hazard. This is an issue that must be a rallying point in disaster risk reduction for all actors including the public and private sectors.

Ms. Wahlström who chaired a Safe Schools meeting for 25 countries in Tehran this week, said: “The Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools can provide expertise to countries that need it from leaders such as Turkey and Iran who are working to ensure that all schools in their earthquake zones are retrofitted or demolished and reconstructed, in the case of Turkey by 2018, and Iran by 2020.

“The important thing for others is to make a start and join this initiative which was launched at the request of governments that adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at a UN World Conference in Japan in March this year.”

About UNISDR: UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which seeks “the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses, in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.”