

**Side Event**

“The Role of Public Awareness and Education in building community resilience”

**FINAL CONCEPT NOTE**

**(Background Paper)**

**What can be accomplished by 2015?**

* Ensure greater funding and action on safe education facilities, management and integration of DRR in formal and non-formal learning.
* Agreement towards for a common global framework on Education for DRR.
* Secure greater South to South collaboration on good practice and lessons learning for advancing DRR and Education.
* Better use of knowledge and information to drive decision making, coordination and planning in the education sector, emphasizing the importance of sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) on DRR, disaster losses and disaster impacts in learning and education;

**What core strategic and / or thematic elements linked to your discussion you believe should appear in HFA2?**

* Better systems of reporting and accountability of governments on DRR education and school safety indicators and goals.
* The HFA 2 should recognize that education policies, plans and programs which prepare communities for disasters as an important strategic element to disaster risk reduction.

**Schedule:** Thursday 23rd May 2013 13h00-13h55

**Organisers:** International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), UNESCO, UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International and UNISDR

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**Background and Rationale:**

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) highlighted the important role of education and public awareness in building the culture of safety and resilience at all levels. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, explicitly calls for the “integration of disaster risk reduction as an intrinsic element of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014). Experience shows that impacts of disasters can be substantially reduced if communities are well prepared and ready to act and are equipped with the knowledge and capacities for effective disaster management.

Effective public awareness and education activities help local communities acquire the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions on how to reduce their vulnerability to disasters, enhance their capacity and adapt their livelihoods to withstand current and future risks, as well as to demand greater action and accountability from those responsible.

The Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies has a long tradition in working with communities on disaster risks, increasing safety and resilience through campaigns, informal education, participatory learning and formal school-based interventions. RCRC National Societies, have developed a wide array of tools to support these activities and have carried out structured public-awareness and education activities on disaster reduction. Many of these activities are connected to children and schools. In order to help National Societies plan for effective public awareness and public education activities and produce increasingly successful and high-impact outcomes, the International Federation of the Red Cross produced a guide on public awareness and public education (PAPE) for DRR, as well as in 2012 key DRR messages to be used in PAPE activities. National Societies, national disaster management organisations, governmental and non-governmental organisations and international organisations are invited to be part of a global validation project working to develop a comprehensive multi-regional set of key messages as a contribution for the culmination of the 2005–2015 Hyogo Framework for Action.

UNESCO is the lead agency for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). Education for Sustainable Development allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future. Education for Sustainable Development means including key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning; for example, climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction, and sustainable consumption. It also requires participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behavior and take action for sustainable development.

Education for Sustainable Development consequently promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative way. UNESCO supports countries to include DRR components into education policies and plans as well as school programs and curricula to increase the level of preparedness and protection of individual learners and entire communities. Disaster preparedness work is linked with efforts to integrate education for sustainable development (ESD), including climate change adaptation into the education system with the overall aim of building resilient and sustainable communities through education. UNESCOs work on DRR education refers to key dimensions of an integrated approach on School Safety which encompasses structural safety, as well as school disaster management and disaster prevention education and curriculum development.

DRR Education at global level has been coordinated, through the ISDR Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education (TPKE), which includes UN agencies, International Organizations, International NGOs. TPKE platform, now called Global Alliance for DRR knowledge and education, promotes joint multi-stakeholder strategies for enhancing knowledge and education for disaster risk reduction as an intrinsic element of UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), 2005-2014.

This side event facilitated by the International Federation of Red cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in partnership with UNESCO, supported by UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International and UNISDR, will provide a platform for sharing good practice and lessons learnt , to engage a wider audience in this dialogue, in order to collaboratively strengthen global coordination information and knowledge as well as advocacy on key aspects of DRR Education and commitment on for advancing HFA3.

**Discussion Agenda and Structure:**

Organised by: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), UNESCO, UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International and UNISDR

Introduction by the Chair: Mr. Walter Cotte, Under Secretary General for Program Services Division, IFRC

1. Welcome remarks and UNESCO Video on Education for disaster preparedness – Kerstin Holst, Officer-in-Charge, UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva
2. Introduction: Ms. Marla Petal - Senior Advisor Education and Disaster Risk Reduction- Save the Children
3. Panel/speakers (4):

* Mr. Mohammad Munir Chowdhury - Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief - Bangladesh Government
* Julio Cesar Centeno - The National DRR director of Ministry of Education of Ecuador
* Mr. Avianto Amri - Adviser of ASEAN Safe School Initiative, Plan International on behalf of AADMER Partnership Group (APG)
* Mr. Edmon Azaryan - Head of Disaster Management - Armenian Red Cross

1. Plenary discussion on how to improve and scale up public awareness and education efforts for community safety and resilience.

Closing by the Chair: Mr. Walter Cotte, Under Secretary General for Program Services Division – IFRC

**The objectives of the session are:**

* To promote advances and lessons learnt in HFA3 and UNFCCC Article 6.
* To share experience and good practice for effective DRR public awareness and education pre-setting commitment and action from ASEAN and other regional/national governments.
* To present the Global Framework on Education for Disaster Risk Reduction and new global initiatives on DRR and Education including: the guide and the Key Messages on Public Awareness and Education for DRR - IFRC and the Technical guidance for integrating disaster risk reduction in the school curriculum: Towards Learning culture of Safety and Resilience- UNICEF/ UNESCO.
* To discuss how to improve and scale up public awareness and education efforts for community safety and resilience.

**Expected number of participants:** 80 participants

**Technical Equipment Required:** Video projector, computer, screen, flipcharts, microphones.

**Background documents:**

* IFRC Publications on Public Awareness and Public Education: Guide and Key Messages
* UNESCO Publication on Education for Sustainable development materials
* UNICEF Publication on Education and DRR/CCA
* Save the Children materials Publication on Education and DRR/CCA
* Plan International Resources on Education and DRR/CCA
* Public Awareness and Public Education examples/ materials from different organisations