

### SIDE-EVENT 3

## Disaster Risk Reduction: an Essential Contribution to Inclusive Education

organised by the *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)*, *UNICEF* and *UNESCO*  
With the support of the *Coalition for Global School Safety and Disaster Prevention Education (COGSS-DPE)*

Natural disasters represent a major cause of exclusion from the education system for children. By destroying school infrastructure and taking away the lives of teachers (and needless to say those of the children themselves), children suffer from a severe disruption of the educational system and are denied access to one of the most fundamental basic human rights: education. Disabled children, children from low-income and ethnic minorities living in disaster-prone areas, as well as those displaced as a result of a disaster, should be allowed an equitable access to education.

Governments have the responsibility and moral imperative to provide all children with the necessary knowledge about disasters, their associated risks and vulnerabilities, and related skills to ensure school safety— through the enforcement of building codes and the development of disaster-resilient school building in order to meet the objectives of “Education for All” and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) by 2015, alongside the Millennium Development Goal of Universal Education.

#### Reality Check – Disasters Impact on Schools

More than 1,000 school students died at school in the Sichuan Province earthquake due to the collapse of school infrastructure.

During the Pakistan earthquake in 2005 - 17,000 school children perished in collapsed infrastructures as a result of poor decision-making in the schools design or their locations in disaster-prone areas (*NSET*).

At the Gujarat earthquake, three million school children were directly affected and thousands killed in schools that were unable to withstand the force of the quake. 317,000 kids were left without access to education.

Roughly one billion children aged 1-14 live in countries with high seismic risk. Several hundred million children are at risk while attending schools (*Let Our Children Teach Us! Study*).

Since 2000, annual flooding has caused the displacement of more than half a million children from school worldwide for extended periods of time, thereby causing severe education disruption.

Disaster Prevention Education was recognized by the ICE preparatory conference in Bali as a priority issue for Inclusive Education.

This Policy Dialogue will give the floor to Governments and experts from the education sector and disaster risk reduction specialists and will aim at providing effective guidance to Governments to implement disaster risk reduction and ensure a safe education for all children.

#### Objectives

- Provide an overview of successful experiences and good practices in integrating disaster risk reduction into school curricula and in building disaster-resilient schools worldwide;
- Provide key strategic recommendations and tools to facilitate the implementation of disaster risk reduction towards a more inclusive education;
- Seek vocal support and commitment from governments to make disaster prevention and safe schools a common priority in the agendas for Ministries of Education, and for governments worldwide to facilitate an equitable access for all to safe schools and education processes.

#### Panel Composition

Mr. Salvano Briceno

Director, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Geneva

Mr. Badaoui Rouhban

Director, Section for Disaster Reduction, UNESCO, Paris

Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha

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Mr. Dermot Carty (tbc)

Deputy Director, EMOPS, UNICEF

Ms. Marla Petal

Director Risk Red, for the Coalition for Global School Safety and Disaster Prevention Education (COGSS-DPE)

Mr. Renato Opertti

Coordinator of the Capacity Building Programme, Bureau International de l'Éducation, UNESCO

#### Country Experiences

H.E. M. Hüseyin Çelik

Minister of Education, Turkey

H.E. M. Marlon Breve

Minister of Education, Honduras

H.E. Ms. Ishengul Boldjurova (tbc)

Minister of Education and Science, Republic of Kyrgyzstan

Minister of Education from African region

Minister of Education from the Asia Pacific region

#### Support Documentation

- Disaster Prevention for School – Guidance for Decision-Makers, 2008
- Hyogo Framework for Action – Building the Resilience of Communities and Nations to Disasters, 2005-2015
- Towards a Culture of Prevention: Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School – Good Practices and Lessons Learned, 2007