



International Conference on Disaster
Risk Reduction into Education Sector
in Latin American and the Caribbean
1 - 3 of march 2011
Santiago de Chile

International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction into Education Sector in Latin American and Caribbean

Santiago de Chile, 1 – 3 March 2010

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

Latin America and the Caribbean comprise the region with the second highest number of disasters in the world, after Asia. All of the national and international statistics indicate a sustained increase in the number of disasters in which, despite a drop in fatalities, economic losses have risen sharply and no sector of society remains untouched by their effects and the actions required to prevent and face ensuing ravages.

Every time an emergency or disaster occurs in Latin America or the Caribbean, the education system is seriously affected. Evaluations by ECLAC, the Andean Development Fund (“CAF”) and other agencies of the 1976-2004 period reveal 1,5 trillion dollars in losses; over 12,000 schools destroyed: over 31 million dollars in damages to schools as a result of their use as shelters and an average of 6 weeks of classes suspended. Not only is all of this a threat to the goals of Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals: it is also a threat to every child and adolescent’s right to education in Latin America and the Caribbean.

For this situation, the governments of Latin American and Caribbean countries have made progress in building national capacities and tools for working on disaster risk reduction in the education sector, through the institutions in charge of preparing for and dealing with emergencies and disasters and their Ministries of Education. Many such initiatives have resulted from or been strengthened by decisions and accords in intergovernmental cooperation platforms such as the Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Relief (“EAPAD”) of CAPRADE, the Regional Disaster Reduction Plan (PRRD) of the Central American Center for Disaster Prevention (CEPREDENAC), the Central American Education and Cultural Coordination of the Central American Integration System (CECC/SICA) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

Countries in the region have also signed the **Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 : Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters** that came out of the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan, on January 18 to 22, 2006. One of the Framework’s priorities for action -- number 3 - is “(To) Build understanding and awareness: To use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels”, and refers specifically to the work of the education sector and its contribution to disaster risk reduction.



In Latin American and Caribbean countries, international cooperation institutions and agencies and national NGOs have worked on the issue of preparedness and disaster risk reduction supporting national or local initiatives. But it was only on the eve of the launching of the 2006-2007 world campaign entitled “Disaster risk reduction begins at school”, sponsored by the UNISDR and UNESCO, that they agreed to make an effort and earmark the resources needed to coordinate and align their cooperation with the priorities that education sector authorities had defined for disaster risk reduction and preparedness to ensure education in emergency and disaster situations.

Given this, and in order to promote horizontal cooperation between countries and institutions, a series of meetings, both technical and non-technical, were held with Ministry of Education professionals and personnel from national systems for disaster preparedness and response and international cooperation agencies/institutions, to share know-how and tools for identifying the weaknesses and challenges which the education sector and, especially, Ministries of Education will face in the coming years

General Goal

To reach an agreement by the representatives of the Ministries of Education participating in the conference that defines priority actions to reduce risk in the education sector and safeguard the right to education in emergency situations, to strengthen and safeguard the Education for All (EFA) goals and orient alignment and cooperation at the national and regional levels on the part of international cooperation agencies/institutions

Specific goals

- Influence the policy platforms of Ministries of Education (Education Goals for 2021 - PRELAC et. al.) for cooperation and agreements on disaster risk reduction and safeguard the right to education in emergency situations.
- Enable the participation of the education sector and present conference achievements at the II Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, scheduled to be held in Mexico in March 2011
- Build and strengthen networks and South-South mechanisms for cooperation, on the basis of experiences and good practices.

Languages

Spanish and English will be the official languages of the conferences and simultaneous interpretation will be provided in all of the conference rooms.

Topics

During the plenary sessions and preparatory meetings planned for the conference, the following areas and topics will be discussed:



AREA	TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION		
Challenges in networks and cooperation to reduce risks in the education sector	Education sector priorities and agendas (National, regional / sub-regional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National/local platforms for disaster risk reduction in education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations/ policies required for institutionalization • MoE emergency protocols
School infrastructure: Protecting lives and the right to education	Safety in new school infrastructure	Maintenance of buildings and school equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of schools for other purposes/ safeguarding the right to education • Schooling alternative spaces in emergencies
Contribution by the education sector in building a culture of prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of topic in school curriculum • Participation of children and adolescents • Coordination between the education community and local institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of teachers in risk reduction • Updating of know-how 	Training new teachers on the issue
Preparing ourselves to respond and reducing vulnerability in education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles of education sector in disaster risk reduction. • Coordination and handling of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to education • Quick return to classes following a disaster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic considerations of school plan • Role of the education community



Participants

It is hoped that the majority of participants be, firstly, individuals who are members of the official delegations from Latin American and Caribbean countries and, secondly:

- Official representatives of LAC Ministries of Education attending by invitation from MINEDUC Chile (ministers, deputy-ministers personnel/professionals in charge of the issues of school safety and/or disaster risk reduction).
- Representatives of national systems for risk reduction and emergency response working with Ministries of Education in disaster risk reduction in the education sector
- Members of the school community (including adolescents and young people), technocrats and/or professionals with local experience that can be reproduced
- Representatives of institutions of technical cooperation, donors, financial institutions (international and national) and the private sector
- Special guests

Methodology

The programme for this conference will employ different methodologies and hold different sessions to address the topics and hold debates. For this purpose, the following methodological tools will be used:

- Panel of ministers / authorities
- Master presentations in plenary sessions
- Panel of authorities / experts in plenary sessions to facilitate alignment on key topics
- Work sessions in groups / tables
- Sessions to define / review conference agreement
- Editorial Commission

Besides the technical sessions, there will be an exhibition area so that the institutions taking part in the conference can exhibit materials, tools and experiences. A specific area will be designated so that Ministries of Education and national risk reduction systems can exhibit their material.



Organization and Invitations

An **Organizing Committee** will be in charge of Organizing this conference. It will be comprised of representatives of the following institutions: Ministry of Education of Chile, ONEMI-Chile, UNICEF, UNESCO, Save the Children, Plan International, OFDA/USAID and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The government of Chile, through its **Ministry of Education**, will issue **official invitations** to the Ministries of Education of Latin American and Caribbean countries, and the Organizing Committee will follow up these invitations and confirm national delegations attending the event.

Along with the announcement/invitation to the Ministries of Education, each national delegation will be asked to prepare a prior document on **the situation in that country** and experiences, institutionalization and tools developed or used to work on the issue of risk reduction in the education sector.

The Organizing Committee will also issue an **invitation to identify experiences that can be reproduced**, to be presented at the conference and issue invitations to cooperation institutions and special guests working on the issue.

Funding

It is hoped that national delegations' airfare and travel expenses will be paid for by technical cooperation institutions working on the issue of disaster risk reduction in the education sector in Latin America and the Caribbean and by the Organizing Committee of this conference.

It is also hoped that the institutions which make up the Organizing Committee will cover the costs of meeting rooms, equipment, material and meals during the conference.



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME
REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBE

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Registration	Summary	
<p>Opening ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of the Organizing remarks Committee <p>Opening Minister of Education of Chile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of Chilean case (political/technical) - Safety information 	<p>SESSION 2 School infrastructure: Safeguarding lives and the right to education</p> <p>Panel / Plenary: 3 presentations on topics discussed in parallel sessions (1 hour)</p>	<p>SESSION 4: Preparing our response and reducing vulnerability in education</p> <p>Panel / Plenary 3 presentations on topics discussed in parallel sessions (1 hour)</p>
Break (30 min)	Break (30 min)	Break (30 min)
<p>Panel in plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priorities and challenges for education sector in LAC - Impact and consequences of disasters in the LAC education sector - Risk management in the education sector – Disaster prevention begins at school - 1 Million Safe Schools campaign / 2nd Regional Platform for Risk Reduction 	<p>Parallel sessions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Safety in new physical infrastructure. 2) Maintenance of school buildings and equipment 3) Use of schools for other purposes/safeguarding the right to education <p>Alternative spaces in emergencies</p>	<p>Parallel sessions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Roles of education sector in disaster risk reduction Coordination and use of information. 2) The right to education Quick return to classes after an emergency 3) The school plan basic considerations <p>Role of the education community</p>
Lunch (1,5 hours)	Lunch (1,5 hours)	Lunch (1,5 hours)
<p>SECTION 1: Challenges facing institutionalization of risk management in the education sector</p> <p>Panel/Plenary: 3 presentation on the topics dealt with in parallel sessions (1 hour)</p>	<p>SECTION 3: The contribution of the education sector in the development of a culture of prevention</p> <p>Panel/Plenary: 3 presentation on the topics dealt with in parallel sessions (1 hour)</p>	<p>SECTION 5: Cooperation and funding for safe schools</p> <p>Panel/Plenary: 1 presentation on the section topic (30 min)</p> <p>Parallel sessions by sub-region: Caribbean (English-speaking); Central America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean; South America /Andean (topics: South-South cooperation, funding , technical assistance, bilateral agreements)</p>

Break (30 min)	Break (30 min)	Break (30 min)
Parallel sessions: 1) Education sector priorities and agenda (National/ Regional/ sub-regional) 2) Sectoral tables of ministries of education National platforms for risk reduction 3) Regulations / policies required for institutionalisation Protocols of response of MINEDUC	Parallel sessions: 1) Incorporation of the issue in school curriculum Participation of children and adolescents Coordination of education community with the community, and local institutions 2) Training teachers in risk reduction Updating of know-how 3) Training new teachers on the issue	CLOSING SESSION – Panel of ministers and national authorities - Reading of declaration (a minister from each sub-region) - Adjournment of conference
Evaluation of the day (20 min) Reception for participants – cocktail	Evaluation of the day (20 min)	Final Evaluation (20 min)