

# Disaster risk reduction begins at school?



# ActionAid and DRR

- Working on DRR in schools in Malawi, Kenya, Ghana, Haiti, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Haiti, DRC, Zambia etc
- Safe schoolchildren, communities & school buildings through knowledge and action on risk and hazards at local level to national level rooted in community
- International reach through work with UNISDR & UNICEF

# Good practice

- PVA
- Schools as safe havens
- DRR as an apolitical space
- DRR clubs for students and communities
- Children as drivers of DRR to community



# Children as DRR drivers



# Lessons

- Enthusiasm of key players drives progress
- Natural disasters are not the only risk people think about
- Education sector has to own and drive the idea of DRR
- Importance of changing attitudes of school management towards DRR
- Participation is key to making things happen in communities



# Challenges

- Make curricula relevant for poor people
- DRR not the only change needed in curricula
- Stronger overlap between district and national level
- Access to funds at school level



## **Key actions for the Ministerial Meeting**

- ✓ **Involve teacher unions and education coalitions**
- ✓ **Make DRR funds available at school level**
- ✓ **Include DRR focus in sector-wide plan & fast track initiative & add DRR as school inspection & classification criteria**
- ✓ **Involve senior education professionals in meeting with their international peers to establish enthusiasm**



Thank you

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