

## *Message to the educational community*

This booklet aims to provide the educational community and children with an innovative and interactive tool for risk management. Earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions and landslides all these are natural phenomena that have occurred throughout the history of humankind. However, rapid population growth, environmental pollution and degradation, and increased poverty, have all contributed to turning these natural phenomena into disasters that cause enormous losses in human lives, infrastructure, and material belongings.

Every decade, disasters cause the death of a million people and leave several millions more homeless. Economic losses caused by natural disasters have tripled in the past 30 years.

Working together continually as a community can help reduce the impact of disasters. Children play a very important role in doing this. How?

By:

- Carrying out school activities about this issue with the participation of the community.
- Teaching their families and community about natural hazards and encouraging them to take preventive measures.
- Helping to establish a real and long-lasting “culture of prevention”, both through action and new attitudes. This means that when they become adults they will have a greater understanding of natural phenomena, the effects of human actions and the consequences of poor environmental management, as well as the need to promote a new kind of development in greater harmony with nature.

This booklet is aimed at children between the ages of 8 and 12, as a supplement to materials already available in schools. Its contents can be used in the teaching of social studies, science and environmental studies, as well as in any other studies that relate to other human groups or countries.

In order to make learning about disasters fun, we have included several activities, as well as an educational board game *Riskland* to help children learn as they play.

We hope this joint effort of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will prove a useful and enjoyable contribution to the learning process.

