The 2006-2007 UN/ISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaign: A Brief Overview

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www.unisdr.org/iddr-2007
Background

1. Increased impact of disasters

2. 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction


4. IATF/DR decision on the World Campaign:
   - Disaster resilient schools (2006-2007)
   - Hospitals safe from disasters (2008-2009)
   - Urban risk reduction (2010-2011)
   - Home safe from disasters (2012-2013)
   - Protecting the environment from disasters (2014-2015)
Objectives

1. Promote the integration of DRR education into school curricula in countries vulnerable to natural hazards

2. Promote the safe construction and retrofitting of school buildings to withstand natural hazards
Key Message

“Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School”
Expectations

- Increase awareness of the importance of school safety and DRR education in school

- Encourage local and national governments to invest more in safer school facilities and DRR education

- Promote good practices to mobilize more attention to and actions in school safety and DRR education
Results

- 55 countries participated actively in the World Disaster Reduction Campaign through awareness raising activities
- 22 other countries achieved highly visible success in school-oriented DRR initiatives
- 96 good practices were received
- 38 good practices selected for new publication entitled “Towards a Culture of Prevention: Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School - Good Practices and Lessons Learned”
- World campaign reinforces ongoing activities on DRR & Education in many countries
In Africa

- 14 countries carried out DRR-related activities on the International Day for Disaster Reduction in 2006

- Seven countries have taken steps toward mainstreaming DRR into school curricula, including developing DRR textbooks, displaying DRR messages on school stationery and organizing school competitions or disaster preparedness drills (Burundi, Cape Verde, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania)

- Madagascar has integrated DRR into school curricula
In the Americas

- 18 countries raised awareness among school communities and developed school protection plans (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, USA, Venezuela)

- Costa Rica and Peru have integrated DRR into school curricula

- Two regional DIPECHO (Disaster Preparedness, European Community Humanitarian Office) projects have helped strengthen local capacities of Education Ministries and Civil Protection Departments, including in Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama
In Asia & the Pacific

- 17 countries organized activities related to the theme of the Campaign (Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Nepal, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tuvalu, Viet Nam)

- DRR initiatives targeting school communities are under way in countries such as Iran, India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Turkey.

- Iran, 2006: All primary, secondary and high schools (over 130,000 schools) took part in “8th National Drill” as part of its “Annual School Earthquake & Safety Initiative”. Over 14 million school students participated.
• In Nepal, DRR-trained school students have become “risk reduction ambassadors”

• In India, a single programme helped some 100,000 students and 2,500 teachers in 200 schools develop school disaster management plans

• Large number of school safety initiatives have been carried out in the Region
In Europe

- A number of countries marked the International Day for Disaster Reduction

- DRR initiatives were undertaken *in countries such as Austria, France, Hungary, and Slovenia.*

- Armenia: A single few-month training project helped turn 375 school students, teachers and school principals into qualified DRR trainers

- DRR initiatives targeting school communities are *under way in countries such as Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, France, Czech Republic.*
Thematic Platform

- Published the educational material called “Let Our Children Teach Us”
- Organized over 20 events and participated in 50 conferences to promote Campaign objectives
- Drafted guidelines on school building safety and integration of DRR education into school curricula
- Prepared a digital library of DRR educational material to be used by Education Ministries and practitioners to achieve Campaign objectives
Events

- Asia & Pacific Regional workshop on School Education and DRR in Bangkok, organized by UNESCO, UNCRD, UNICEF and ISDR regional office
- A policy change dialogue: *making your constituencies disaster proof*, co-organized by the Parliamentarian network known as GLOBE and ISDR secretariat in Brussels
- Briefing discussion on Climate change and DRR, organized by OCHA, ISDR and IFRC in New York
- 30 countries informed ISDR that they continue to highlight the campaign theme through various events (*Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Cote d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Thailand, USA, Venezuela, and Zambia*)
Summary

- Activities were mostly on raising school awareness at community level, which helped build a culture of prevention

- More countries now taking actions to integrate DRR into school activities, but mainstreaming DRR into school curricula remains a challenge

- School safety is not a reality yet. More work needs to be done to assess vulnerabilities of school facilities, retrofit school buildings, relocate schools from high-risk areas
Conclusion

- The Campaign was a good awareness campaign, but more “political” actions are needed to achieve its two main objectives in the years to come.
- Among 168 countries that adopted the HFA, only 55 were actively involved in the Campaign – a rather poor participation.
- Schools, like hospitals, are critical infrastructures that need better protection; and children have the right to be educated in safe environments.
- UNESCO and UNICEF will continue with the important roles they have played during the Campaign.
- Many organizations and Governments will continue the Campaign at local and national levels.
- ISDR secretariat will focus the 2008-2009 Campaign on the theme “Hospitals Safe From Disasters” together with WHO.
Thank you

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