



Frequently asked questions

Why a Campaign on disaster risk education and school safety?

- Children are among the most vulnerable population group during a disaster, especially those attending school at the time of the catastrophe. During disasters, school buildings are destroyed, taking away the precious lives of children and teachers and stalling access to education in the aftermath of disaster. Rebuilding these schools can take years and is very costly
- Learning about disaster risk in primary and secondary school help children play an important role in saving lives and protecting members of the community in times of disaster. Making disaster risk education an integral part of the national school curriculum helps to build greater awareness of the issues across entire communities
- In addition to their essential role in formal education, schools must also protect children in the event of a natural hazard. Investing in strengthening school structures before a disaster occurs, reduces long-term costs, protects generations of children and ensures educational continuity after the event
- Disaster risk education and safe school buildings are two key priority areas for action outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, which 168 Governments adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005
- Integrating disaster risk education into national curricula and building safe school facilities are two priorities that contribute to a country's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Who is organizing the Campaign?

- The UN/ISDR secretariat takes the lead in coordinating biennial World Disaster Reduction Campaigns. These campaigns aim to raise awareness, mobilize action, and harness existing practices to reduce loss of life, livelihood as well as social and environmental losses caused to communities and nations as a result of disasters. The Campaigns' themes reflect the five priorities outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters
- The UN/ISDR partners, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, IFRC, ActionAid, and key regional organizations within and outside the United Nations, contribute their knowledge and expertise and link their initiatives to the Campaigns. The 2006-2007 Campaign, "Disaster risk reduction begins at school" enlists the support of all of the UN/ISDR partners, including the ISDR system's thematic cluster on knowledge and education. For a comprehensive list of who is doing what, please visit our website: www.unisdr.org/wdrc-2006-2007

What are the Campaign's main objectives?

- To promote the integration of disaster risk education in school curricula in countries vulnerable to natural hazards
- To promote the safe construction and retrofitting of school buildings to withstand natural hazards

How can we achieve the goals of the Campaign?

- Promote best practices to show how beneficial safer schools and disaster risk reduction education are for vulnerable populations
- Involve actors at different levels to convey the main messages of the Campaign

- Sensitize schoolchildren, parents, teachers, policy/decision makers and practitioners at local, national and international levels, and civil society organizations to lobby for safer schools and disaster reduction education

What are the Campaign's main messages?

- Disaster risk education empowers children and helps build greater awareness of the issue in communities
- Safe school facilities save lives and protect generations of children in the event of a natural hazard
- Disaster risk education and safe school facilities will help countries progress towards the MDGs

Who are the Campaign's main targets?

- Primary and secondary school children, teachers, education policy makers, parents, engineers and building professionals
- Government ministry/agency in charge of disaster management issues, ministries of education, national-level political leaders, local authorities and community decision makers

What are the expected results of the Campaign?

- Local and national governments' investment in safer school facilities and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into national school curricula
- Increased awareness on the positive impacts of school safety and disaster risk education in school
- Increased action and use of good practices to mobilize coalitions and partnerships, facilitate South-South exchanges, build capacity and guide others to existing resources for training in the area of disaster risk education and school safety

Who can participate in the Campaign?

- School children, teachers, community leaders, parents and individuals who are interested in disaster risk education and safer schools
- NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), UN organizations, international, national, regional and local associations/institutions, the private sector and public sector

How long does the Campaign last?

- The Campaign led by the UN/ISDR will last for two years, through to the end of 2007, but it continues thereafter under the auspices of the UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Where can I read more about the subject?

- The UN/ISDR website provides a number of links, contacts that can help you to understand the topic better. Please visit: www.unisdr.org/wdrc-2006-2007