DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AMADORA, BASED ON THE MAKING CITIES RESILIENT CAMPAIGN

Municipality of Amadora, Portugal
April 2018

Amadora is a satellite city of Lisbon located in the northwest of the Lisbon metropolitan area. Composing an area of only 23.77 square km, Amadora Municipality is one of Portugal's smallest municipalities; however, with 7,343 inhabitants per km, Amadora has the highest population density of any municipality in Portugal. Amadora's population is characterised by an increasing proportion of elderly people.

Over the last 20 years the major disaster risks have been flash floods (urban area), urban fires, industrial fires, landslides, storms (fallen trees, damaged buildings, infrastructure, etc.) and road accidents. As a highly urbanized territory with a population insufficiently aware and/or sensitized about the risks and hazards, Amadora face a number of challenges:

- Growing urban population and increased density, which put pressure on land and services;

- Weak local governance and insufficient participation by stakeholders in planning and urban management;

- The decline of ecosystems, due to human activities;

- Adverse effects of climate change that will likely increase or decrease extreme temperatures and precipitation;

- A need to build capacity, identify, assess, monitor and reduce risks to build a culture of safety and resilience;

- How to place the issue of risk, disaster and resilience on the municipality agenda.

In August 2010 the Municipality of Amadora joined the *Making Cities Resilient Campaign* (MCR) to face these challenges and to implement UNISDR´s Ten Essentials. Amadora's Mayor created a multidisciplinary team with personnel from different municipal departments.

The team has disseminated the concepts of disaster risk reduction to the various city institutions (social welfare, schools, elderly people). In addition to technical support to implement recommendations or self-protective measures for the institutions, were developed information and awareness sessions for the target audience of each entities. In the social welfare (immigrant and needy population) and elderly people institutions we promoted sessions about risks at local scale, safety equipment (how to use fire extinguishers) and the entities that we can and should use in a disaster situation. These actions have the support of Firefighters Department, National and Municipal Police, Red Cross and members of the team from Civil Protection Service.

The main goal is to approach this target group with the concepts of security and resilience and make them more active in the community.

Currently the Amadora MCR Campaign has more than forty stakeholders (academic-scientific entities, local councils, municipal services, public-private organizations, rescue and emergency services, private social solidarity organizations, non-governmental organizations and schools). A summary of stakeholder involvement follows:

- Academic-scientific entities: have developed a set of studies about risk and vulnerability assessment;

- Local councils: promotes contacts with local associations and citizens' groups in order to increase their awareness;

- Municipal services: gives cooperation and collaboration to the campaign team (facilitate contacts and disseminate information for all municipality: education, environment, urban services);

- Rescue and emergency: provides data about disaster losses and support the stakeholders (on the local campaign) training and awareness for first aid and drills;

- Public-private entities and private social solidarity institutions: receive technical support (by the local campaign team) to improve their emergency plan and to provide social and cultural activities about disaster risk reduction to their clientele;

- NGO´S: support public awareness initiatives; provide free training (first aid; risk, disaster and resilience frameworks) to campaign stakeholders;

- School community: organise training activities and awareness about risk and disaster. Some schools have created civil protection centres for students to develop skills and facilitate a culture of safety.

All outputs produced by the campaign team are converted to simplified language about the municipality risks and recommendations to reduce disasters impacts. This reflects an important strategy of the team - to ensure complex technical data is communicated to stakeholders in language that is understandable to them. Activities are included in presentations (question-and-answer games, quizzes, simulations), to ensure that the audience has understood information presented.

Building a close relationship between stakeholders and the campaign has been crucial to ensuring the team understand the principal needs of each institution. The efforts of the campaign team have resulted in increased interest from stakeholders in seeking information on risks and disasters.

INSTRUÇÕES GERAIS DE SEGURANÇA
· Regras evacuação, como deves agir! ·

1 SINAL DE ALARME
Se houver uma situação de emergência na tua escola, e o alarme sonoro tocar, devemos iniciar a evacuação.

2 SAÍDAS
Todos deverão conhecer as várias saídas da escola e qual o percurso de evacuação que se deve fazer em caso de emergência.

3 CHEFE DE FILA E CERRA-FILA
A coordenação da evacuação é feita por um aluno escolhido e o professor. O aluno é a Chefe de Fila (vai à frente) e o professor o Cerra-Fila, que fecha a porta da sala e verifica se não ficou ninguém para trás.

4 MATERIAL ESCOLAR
Em caso de evacuação não te preocupes com o teu material escolar. Sai e não voltes atrás.

5 FILA INDIANA
Todos os alunos devem sair em fila indiana, sem corridas, mas em passo rápido e encostados à parede.

6 SINALEIRO
Não pares nas escadas e saídas, junto destas deve estar sempre um sinaleiro que te vai indicar qual o melhor caminho a seguir.

7 PONTO DE ENCONTRO
A tua escola tem um ponto de encontro, em caso de evacuação é para lá que todos devem ir.

8 MANTÉM-TE NO PONTO DE ENCONTRO
Não deves sair desse local, até serem dadas outras instruções pelo teu professor ou pela direção da escola.

9 EM CASO DE SISMO
Treina os comportamentos de Autoproteção. Lembra-te sempre destas três palavras: AGACHAR – PROTEGER – AGUARDAR. Protege-te debaixo de uma mesa, num vão de uma porta ou senta-te junto a uma parede interior, longe de janelas e móveis, conta sempre com a ocorrência de possíveis réplicas.

Estarmos preparados, é a solução!

www.cm-amadora.pt
Ⓕ Amadora Resiliente

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