

## **National Advocacy Workshops**

### **Focus: Mainstreaming DRR in the Education Sector**

#### **Background:**

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction the Education Sector project is designed with the primary focus to assist the Ministry of Education in three countries working with the National Disaster Management Organizations, to undertake integration of DRR into the secondary school curriculum and promoting resilient construction of new schools using research on the past impact of disasters on Education sector. The project is being implemented by UNDP, ADPC, with support from ECHO. These workshops would help to build consensus and commitment to mainstream disaster risk reduction in education sector in Lao PDR, Cambodia and the Philippines, and identify further activities for mainstreaming.

Building on the current and likely future initiatives to support the Hyogo Framework for Action, this project includes four main activities, namely; i) Initiating Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into Secondary School Curriculum, ii) Study on Impacts of Disasters on the Education Sector, iii) Advocacy Workshop on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into the Education Sector, and iv) Stakeholder consultation as follow up to the Advocacy Workshop.

The third activity, the Advocacy Workshop on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into the Education Sector, aims to raise awareness and build consensus and commitment of the Ministry of Education and other related Ministries in Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into the Education Sector.

In this context, it is realized that for successful implementation of developmental activities for the Education sector, it is essential to involve other Ministries such as Planning and Finance as they take key decisions about the budgetary allocations and distribution of funds in respective sectors. This Advocacy workshop would raise their awareness on how investment in risk reduction education as well as in disaster resilient construction can help in minimizing financial losses incurred by Ministry of Education in the aftermath of a disaster.

Similarly, though school buildings are assets of the Department of Education, often they are built by other departments such as Public Works, or donor designated construction agencies. Hence raising their awareness for the necessity of disaster resilient construction and revising standard school designs is necessary to achieve the primary goal of reducing risk from hazards.

The workshop would not only showcase the success and experience of integration of DRR module into the education curriculum but also focus on the need for hazard resilient construction and other actions to reduce impacts of disasters in the education sector in the three countries.

The workshops would orient the officials from Ministry of Education and related Ministries (Ministry of Planning, Finance and Public Works), identify the gaps in the present system of school construction and initiate mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development policies, planning and implementation of Education Sector.

The workshop would be a 2 day event. The tentative dates and venues are:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Cambodia	19 - 20 March 2008	Phnom Penh
Lao PDR	28-29 February 2008	Vientiane
Philippines	26-28 March 2008 (Tentative)	Manila

The workshop would aim at introducing the following:

- Introduction to priorities of HFA.
- RCC program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Introduction to the rationale, concepts and necessity of mainstreaming DRR in the Education Sector of the country.
- Present the results and experiences of mainstreaming DRR modules into secondary school curriculum.
- Draw lessons to expand coverage to other grades and other areas of the education sector, such as school safety.
- Explain the need and future steps to mainstream disaster risk reduction in Education sector by increasing the hazard resilience in school construction.
- Share experiences of other project countries, NGOs and donors in similar activities.
- Present the respective country studies on the impacts of disasters on the education sector, produced in Activity 2
- Identify gaps and needs in hazard resilient construction of schools in the countries

Key officials from the following Ministries/sectoral agencies would be invited to participate in the workshop:

- Ministry of Education (curriculum development, office of budget, office of planning, office of school construction)
- Ministry of Public works
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Planning
- National Disaster Management Office
- Provincial planning authorities and education departments from the target provinces

In addition, representatives from the UNDP country team, World Bank, ADB and important bilateral donors including the European Commission, private sector and media would be invited to the advocacy workshops in each country.

### **Workshop Objectives:**

1. To show case the results and the experience from the implementation of the project on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the education sector (MDRD Education).
2. To show case the recommendations of the study on the impacts of disasters in the education sector in the countries, with specific focus on safer construction of school buildings.
3. To share, and learn from, the experience of other NGOs and donors in integrating DRR concerns in the education sector.
5. To suggest future programmatic activity for the integration of DRR in the education sector of the countries to ensure compliance with the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The last objective (5) is crucial because though the execution of the project has addressed a gap in the implementation of the HFA in the 3 countries, it has also exposed some critical deficiencies which need to be catered for through further programmatic activity. The country governments have expressed the need for expansion and continuation of the activities under the MDRD Education project.

The gaps that need to be addressed include both non-structural and structural methods of mitigation for the education sector. The non-structural measures that need to be covered include:

1. Integration of DRR in the primary school curriculum. The primary sections are the most important to deliver the message of DRR to the students. Students in the primary classes are the most vulnerable to disasters. Of significance is the fact that in developing countries there is a high drop out rate after primary school. If DRR is not taught at the primary level than a substantial number of potential targets are missed. In addition, an important aspect is that the curriculum development cycle in Cambodia and Lao PDR is in process of review currently. In the Philippines the curriculum development cycle starts next year. This is the best time to make additions of topics on DRR in the curriculum, for all classes.
2. Integration of DRR in the senior secondary school curriculum.
3. Integration of DRR in the university curriculum, especially in the curriculum for courses in architecture and engineering.
4. Development of curriculum for students and teachers with disabilities, especially for those who are visually, hearing impaired and mentally challenged. This is a

major gap. Some work has been done in Indonesia, but there are glaring deficiencies in other countries.

5. Development of extra curricular activities for students which complement the DRR curriculum e.g. games (board and CD), quizzes, etc. The need for such activities has been expressed by teachers, education department officials and the NDMOs of the three countries.
6. Development of training modules which can be used at teacher training institutes to teach the DRR curriculum to the teachers. This will also involve capacity building of the teachers training institutes and development of master trainers and resource persons who can teach other teachers. The modules are needed for newly appointed teachers as well as in service teachers.
7. Development of guidelines for emergency planning in the schools. This would help complement the teaching of DRR in the schools. This will also require a training module for teachers on school emergency planning and capacity development of the teachers training institutes for this topic.

The structural measures that need to be addressed by new programs include:

1. Development of guidelines for the construction of safe school buildings.
2. Development of training modules and capacity development of training institutes for training in safe construction practices which integrate DRR. The training modules will be for architects, engineers, masons and the community.
3. Development of guidelines for assessment of vulnerability of school buildings and retro-fitting of the buildings based on the results of the assessment.
4. Guidelines for design of schools so the buildings can be used as emergency shelters.

These activities will help in the mainstreaming of DRR in the education sector in the region, in accordance with the commitments to the HFA. These activities will also build upon the achievements of the Regional Consultative Committee of ADPC on mainstreaming. The activities can be completed in phases to facilitate the implementation of the HFA requirements for the education sector by the year 2011.