

*“As of 2016, every new school will be safe from disasters”*

## Expected achievements

1. At least 10 Governments engage as "School Safety Country Leaders" and announce commitment to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools (WISS) at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan).
2. 10,000 schools submit preliminary assessment data on school safety through the "How Safe is your School" application.
3. A digital platform is developed as a collaborative Safe Schools web-based monitoring platform to collect data and track progress on school safety implementation globally.
4. School safety is recognized as a priority in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, as part of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 and in Regional Platforms' political declarations.
5. Regional partners support the development of tools and standards for school safety and support a coordinated delivery of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools on the ground.

### Jan 2014 – Jan 2016:

- Countries commit to every new school being "safe" at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Create social demand for school safety.
- Give visibility to countries' achievements and support national level implementation.
- Create political momentum for commitment to a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

## 1. Why this Initiative?

- The 2009 Second Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction proposed that by 2011 national assessments of the safety of existing education and health facilities should be undertaken, and that by 2015 concrete action plans for safer schools and hospitals should be developed and implemented in all disaster prone countries. A range of initiatives and tools for school safety have been developed since then by a number of partners.
- The High-Level Dialogue Communiqué of the 2013 Fourth Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction proposed to "Start a global safe schools and safe health structures campaign in disaster-prone areas with voluntary funding and commitments to be announced at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.
- A set of initiatives on school safety are being developed by various partners in an uncoordinated manner as a response to the High Level Communiqué's call. UNISDR has the mandate and responsibility to ensure that a global holistic initiative for school safety that builds on key is presented at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015

## 2. What is a safe school?

The Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector **defines a "safe school" as combining all of the following three components:**

- **Safe Learning Facilities** (disaster-resilient infrastructure)
- **School Disaster Management**
- **Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Education**

## 3. Key Programme Components

The Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools will focus effort in high risk and low capacity countries. Governments will lead actions with the support of key technical partners (see below) on the development of national strategies for school safety around the three key pillars of school safety. A major global advocacy component led by UNISDR will foster political commitment to school safety.

### 3.1. Safe Learning Facilities *to be convened by WB/GFDRR, UNESCO and other actors with national level implementation capacity*

This component will aim at integrating structural safety in the construction of new schools and at retrofitting existing vulnerable ones. Ministries of Education, Ministries of Planning, Local Government Units and national coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction (National Platforms) will be encouraged to engage with national architects and engineering professional bodies to undertake independent assessment and certification of school construction and promote national standards on safe schools in support of school construction in risk-free areas.

### Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools

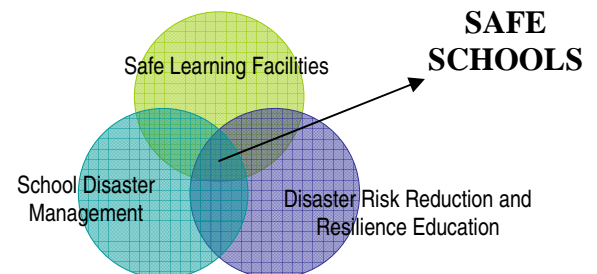


Diagram: The Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools will promote action on all three pillars of school safety to ensure every new

### **3.2. School Disaster management** *to be convened by Save the Children with the support of Plan International and IFRC*

This component will support National Disaster Management Organizations and Ministries of Education to engage actively in school preparedness activities, including the conduct of evacuation drills.

### **3.3. Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Education** *to be convened by UNESCO and UNICEF*

This component will aim at mobilizing Ministries of Education to include disaster risk reduction as part of school curricula and at strengthening teacher education institutions in disaster risk reduction and resilience education to allow children to acquire critical thinking and life-saving skills in support of a global culture of prevention.

### **3.4. Building Political Advocacy and Facilitating Overall Monitoring and Reporting on School Safety** *to be convened by UNISDR*

This component will aim at supporting Governments to become “School Safety Country Leaders” and to commit action and pledge support to the worldwide initiative at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. UNISDR will also work closely with the Global Alliance members to facilitate an accurate reporting and monitoring of school safety actions globally.

## **4. UNISDR’s contribution to a Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools**

### **4.1 Mobilizing political commitment for school safety**

- Identify and engage Governments interested and active in school safety to become “School Safety Country Leaders” and get prepared to commit actions and resources to school safety at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (total of 10-15, approximately 2-3 per region).
- Facilitate specific discussions on school safety at WCDRR and at Regional Platforms to ensure the recognition of school safety as a priority in a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and as part of WCDRR and Regional Platforms’ outcome documents.
- Support resource mobilization efforts at the global level for national and local level school safety implementation through targeted donors, the private sector, individuals and associations.
- Develop a global communication strategy for school safety to build awareness on school safety in the lead up to WCDRR. This shall include the identification and promotion of “School Safety Advocacy Champions” for school safety
- Advocate and provide substantive input on school safety in core education streams, including the Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) and post-2014 global programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

#### **Proposed modalities to mobilize School Safety Country Leaders**

- Seek selected Governments’ interest on the occasion of SRSG’s, Director and Heads of ROs’ visits and at Regional Platforms
- Interested countries will be invited to help shape the design of the initiative.

#### **School Safety Country Leaders will be expected to:**

1. Commit actions and resources to school safety at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. Allocate national budget for school safety implementation and in partner countries.
3. Mobilize Ministries of Education and Planning in the development of national strategies for school safety.
4. Assess the status of school safety implementation at country level.
5. Share experiences and good practices in school safety implementation.
6. Foster the development of national strategies for school safety as part of national disaster risk reduction strategies.

### **4.2. Building the social demand for school safety** *in cooperation with the Global Alliance for DRR and Resilience in the Education Sector.*

- Create and support national social demand for school safety through the implementation of a crowd-sourcing initiative “How Safe is your School” (led by UNISDR), to promote preliminary assessment of the safety of schools combining the three key pillars of school safety. This will complement other Global Alliance members’ school safety assessment applications
- Map out actions on school safety already in process in selected countries.
- Support regional actors in developing and adopting safety standards on the three pillars of school safety regionally (e.g. SAARC, ASEAN) and within national contexts.

### **4.3. Facilitating national level implementation, capacity-development, monitoring and reporting** *in cooperation with the Global Alliance for DRR and Resilience in the Education Sector*

- Facilitate capacity-building on disaster risk reduction for masons through architect and engineer associations at the national and regional levels.
- Support Governments with the development of national strategies for school safety or the integration of school safety as part of existing Education plans.
- Encourage Governments to monitor and report on progress in school safety through their own national reporting process
- Contribute to tracking progress on school safety through a jointly developed global digital platform (led by WB) that will collect How Safe is your School preliminary assessment application and other Global Alliance members’ assessment applications data.