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Global Alliance for
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in the Education Sector



UNISDR
The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



United Nations
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Draft Concept Note "My Island, My Life"

25-26 April 2019

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Background

Disasters have a major impact on children, youth and education systems. Studies suggest that worldwide each year, 175 million children are likely to be affected by disasters, and children in the Caribbean are no exception. The 2017 hurricane season affected 1,700 school buildings in Cuba. Dominica had 18,500 school-aged children out of school, and 57 Government primary and secondary schools were damaged or destroyed. Children from Barbuda and Dominica had to be temporally relocated to Antigua to attend classes.

Most countries however, are small and resources are scarce or non-existent for each to carry out tasks on an individual basis. In spite of this, major strategies have been implemented individually in different countries in order to improve school preparedness. In order to ensure political commitment at the regional and national level, the First Caribbean Ministerial Safe School Forum was organized in April 2017 in Antigua and Barbuda. Main outcomes were a Regional Road Map on School Safety, and the Antigua and Barbuda Declaration on School Safety, which was signed by twelve Caribbean Ministries of Education (i.e. Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos and the Virgin Islands).

In April 2019 from 29 to 30, the Second Ministerial Forum on School Safety in the Caribbean will be held. This Forum will be linked to a youth forum: “My Island, My Life” aiming to identify safety issues around the three pillars of the Caribbean Schools Safety Initiative. This Forum intends to be a platform through which young people can contribute to policy discussions through their collective ideas, solutions and innovations. The active and meaningful engagement of youth in the design, implementation, follow up and review of safety issues around the three pillars of the Caribbean Schools Safety Initiative represents a chance to explore ways and means of promoting youth development and engagement.

Rationale

The first Youth Forum entitled “My Island, My Life”, to be held at XXX from 25 to 26 April 2019, will be an opportunity for young people to share their perspectives and engage on the Caribbean Schools Safety Initiative from the disaster risk reduction and climate change perspective. The results of this Forum will be presented to all Ministers and decision makers during the Second Ministerial Forum on School Safety in the Caribbean that will be held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines from 29 to 30 April 2019. The Ministerial Forum will count with the participation of Ministers of Education and Directors of National Disaster Management Agencies of the region.

The Second Ministerial Forum on School Safety will among other things, focus on:

- Updating the Caribbean regional Road Map on School Safety;
- Monitoring progress and achievements in the implementation of the Caribbean Regional Roadmap on School Safety.

In addition to being directly impacted by natural/manmade disasters, Caribbean youths are well poised to be active partners and agents of change for the realization of the above-mentioned objectives. Their ideas and commitment contribute to ensuring school safety and building a culture of safety in school and communities. Their innovative capacities are crucial to the success of the implementation of the Regional Road Map on School Safety. They are also recognized as important partners in the United Nations “New Urban Agenda that aims to make cities and human settlements

inclusive, safe and resilient (SDG 11). Similarly, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Compact on Young People in Humanitarian Action recognize young people as key partners in advancing resilience to ensure disaster preparedness, reduce risks when disaster strikes and as key contributors in all phases of humanitarian response. Young people also continuously identify emerging issues, offer solutions and support evidence-based action to accelerate progress on the 2030 Development and Humanitarian Agenda¹.

The Forum participants will be invited to frame their discussions on the three pillars of the Caribbean Schools Safety Initiative: 1) Safe Learning Facilities; 2) School Disaster Management and 3) Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Education

Objectives

The 2019 Youth Forum “My Island, My Life” aims to provide a regional Caribbean platform for youth representatives from the Caribbean to build their leadership skills and strengthen their capacity to contribute to the Caribbean Schools Safety Initiative now and in the future. Specifically, it aims to:

1. Engage youth in discussing the Caribbean Schools Safety Initiative.
2. Explore mechanism for youth engagement on policy development and implementation on school safety issues.
3. Identify pathways and means to support youth to surmount challenges they face when a disaster occurs and meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the Regional Road Map on School Safety and resilience in national and school level.
4. Share knowledge on school safety and the regional initiatives as well as foster personal, professional and cross-cultural networking among youth within the Caribbean around school safety issues.
5. Provide a space for youth representatives to voice their unique view on the Caribbean Schools Safety Initiative.
6. Provide an avenue for identifying and addressing emerging issues related to school safety (such as climate change impacts, etc.).

Outcome

The outcome of the Youth Forum will be a summary document capturing key outcomes of the discussions and findings of the Forum, which will be made available as an open letter to the Second Ministerial Forum on School Safety in the Caribbean convened on 29 and 30 April 2019 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Essentially, a youth representative will particularly present the results of the Youth Forum to the participants of the Second Ministerial Forum on School Safety in the Caribbean.

Format and Participation

The Forum will feature opening and closing plenary sessions. The Forum will adopt participatory methods to raise awareness, stimulate creativity, encourage innovation, and engage participants. Activities will include performances, interactive panels, hard talks role play, workshop, group discussions and a site visit. Presenters, motivational speakers [change coaches], and facilitators will offer informed perspectives and advocate on critical school safety issues in the Caribbean region. Sessions and workshop will also solicit youths’ viewpoints on innovative and successful initiatives and

¹ This includes among others: the Sustainable Development Goals stated within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda, and, the Agenda for Humanity,

interventions aimed at strengthening and developing school safety as defined in the Caribbean Schools Safety Initiative.

Virtual participation will be possible as youth representatives will be invited to participate through video-link from selected countries. The meeting will be available through webcast and participants will be able to pose questions via social medias such as Facebook, Instagram and twitter.

The Forum will be chaired by XXX and is co-organised by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk reduction (UNISDR), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), IsraAID and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Target Participants

Two (2) participants from each Caribbean island (i.e. Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos and the Virgin Islands) will be selected to join the Youth Forum, "My Island, My Life". The desired participants are those who are part of youth organizations and networks within the region.

The Forum will also include a balanced representation of youth from all countries including indigenous groups and people with disabilities. Gender balance will also be respected.

Draft Agenda

DAY 1 – Thursday 25 April 2019	
9:00 – 9h30	Registration
9:30 – 10:30	Welcome remarks from the organisers and Youth performance Individual presentation of participants - Round table
10:30 – 10:45	Adoption of the Agenda
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee and tea break</i>
11:15 – 13:00	Open discussion on: "What does school safety mean? " "Resilient school"
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Presentation of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, Caribbean School Safety Initiative and the Regional Road Map on School Safety
15:30 – 18:30	<i>School site visit</i>
18:30	End of Day 1

DAY 2 – Friday 26 April 2019	
9:00 – 10:00	Group discussions about how to engage youth in DRR and School Safety Policy
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation of the group discussions
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee and tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Interactive panel on empowering the role of youth on strengthening Regional Road Map on School Safety
12:30 – 13:00	Hard talk on climate change and resilience
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>



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14:00 – 16:00	Preparation of the open letter a summary document to be presented during the Second Ministerial Forum on School Safety in the Caribbean
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee and tea break</i>
16:30 – 18:00	Finalisation of the document and designation of a youth representative for the Second Caribbean Ministerial Forum on School Safety
18:00 – 18:30	Wrap up of the two days
18:30	End of Day 2

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