



Vijana Tuajibike!

Join us on October 13th for the International Day for Disaster Reduction

Disaster loss is on the rise with grave consequences for the survival, dignity and livelihood of individuals, particularly the poor and hard-won development gains. Disaster risk is increasingly of global concern and its impact and actions in one region can have an impact on risks in another, and vice versa.

This, compounded by increasing vulnerabilities related to changing demographic, technological and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, under-development, environmental degradation, climate variability, climate change, geological hazards, competition for scarce resources, and the impact of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, points to a future where disasters could increasingly threaten the world's economy, and its population and the sustainable development of developing countries.

In the past two decades, on average more than 200 million people have been affected every year by disasters. The current on-going Kenya drought and recent Nairobi fire tragedies, Nairobi Embakasi collapsed building and flooding along the Turkana river has taken toll on the socio – economic development in Kenyan not to forget the negative impact caused by degradation of the natural environment resulting in severe consequences on lives and livelihoods.

As in previous years, the **International Day for Disaster reduction** is on **13 October** to celebrate and raise awareness about current interventions and in the future, what we can all do to manage and reduce risk to disasters. The event will take place on Thursday, 13 October 2011 at the University of Nairobi from 0900h.

The Government of Kenya, UNDP (Kenya), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Africa, UNICEF, Plan International, World Vision and Save the Children (together as 'Children in a Changing Climate'), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, OXFAM, and others, believe it is essential to include the unique perspectives of children and young people in disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Vijana Tuajibike - Step up for Disaster Risk Reduction

That is why this year's International Day for Disaster reduction will focus on the need to step up to Disaster Risk Reduction around the theme dubbed: ***Vijana Tuajibike - Step up for Disaster Risk Reduction.***

This year's event will include a one day exhibition where 40 agencies will be allocated an exhibition stand to showcase or account to the general public in what interventions their organization is taking to address issues on reducing disaster risk in Kenya.

This will be a great opportunity for agencies to interact with the youth and cultivate best practices for DRR programming. The event will be graced by the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga **on Thursday, 13 October 2011 at the University of Nairobi from 0900h.**

VijanaTuajibike - Step up for Disaster Risk Reduction is an edge to rally young people's commitment to disaster risk reduction in line with the global focus of this year's theme. The event, targeting the children and young people will involve government agencies, schools, youth initiatives, NGOs, private sector and various UN agencies to mobilize the youth's role in disaster risk reduction.

Repeatedly portrayed as victims of disaster and climate change, children and young people can and should be encouraged to participate in disaster reduction and decision making.

In this regard, we encourage you to engage with children and the youth to formulate best practices to address disaster risk reduction problems and how they can be part of the solution.

By lobbying for this initiative we will be encouraging our government, policy makers, companies and communities' need to systematically include children and young people's participation in their decision-making processes for building disaster resilient societies.

During this years' International Day, children and young people's networks and partnerships need to be encouraged across cultures. Children and young people need to be empowered and supported as agents of social inclusion and safety.

Children and Young People Commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction

During this year's Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, three young people told more than 2600 representatives from governments, the private sector and civil society WHY and HOW children can be involved in reducing disaster risk, and keeping themselves and their communities safe. 16-year old Andre and 14-year old Tricia, from the Philippines, and 17-year old Johnson from Kenya, were selected to participate in the Global Platform by their communities because of their keen interest in disaster risk reduction. Before a house packed with government and community leaders from around the world, they put the interests of children and young people on the agenda at the largest Global Platform ever held.

They also launched a five-point **Children's Charter for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**. The Charter highlights 5 priorities identified through consultations with more than 600 children in 21 countries. Education, child protection and access to basic information were the main issues the children believed necessary to reduce the impact of disasters and climate change on their families and communities. www.unisdr.org

The 5 priorities in the Children's Charter for DRR are:

- Schools must be safe - education must be uninterrupted.
- Child protection must be a priority, before, during and after a disaster.
- Children and young people have the right to participate and to access the information they need.
- Community infrastructure must be safe, and relief and reconstruction must help reduce future disaster risk.
- Disaster risk reduction must reach the most vulnerable.

For more information about the International Day for Disaster Reduction please visit:

<http://www.unisdr.org/2011/iddr/>