

Paving the Way to Resilience through Lifelong Learning: Micro-planning and community learning centres for disaster management

Dr Satoko Yano, Programme Specialist of Inclusive Quality Education (IQE), UNESCO Bangkok

Abstract:

The Asia-Pacific region has struggled with coping with natural hazards-induced disasters which have caused devastating economic and social impacts for the last decades. The fact that the region has experienced more than 40 percent of 3,979 disasters that occurred globally between 2005 and 2014 (UNESCAP, 2015) shows urgency of the issue. Apart from massive-scale disasters, there also have been numerous smaller events that hardly receive attention from global society but have significantly affected local communities – including its education system.

International frameworks on Disaster Risk Reduction including Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and Sendai Framework for Action (SFA) have clearly emphasised the importance of local level actions in order to build and enhance resilience from the ground. This is also highlighted by shared voice from international education community. A newly launched education agenda “Education 2030” encapsulated in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 and its corresponding targets also underlines strengthened role and responsibilities of local stakeholders. This continuous and active engagement from local actors can be fully ensured through lifelong learning opportunities for everyone which is also strongly promoted by Education 2030.

What we should be aware of, however, is that despite this awareness and emphasis at international level, there still lacks practical supports for local level stakeholders to develop and improve their capacities around key new concepts and subject areas of the abovementioned international agendas and ultimately in building resilience of the community. UNESCO Bangkok, in this context, as Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education overseeing 47 countries in the region, has been actively leading supports for its member states through its programmes targeting local stakeholders. The efforts of building capacity of local level actors in planning (micro-planning toolkit) and providing supports for community learning centers will be presented.